



# Deal execution guide

Best practices for closing the right deals faster



#### **Overview**

The private markets continue to increase in value and opportunity. To compete, you need insight into the flow of capital across the entire venture capital, private equity and M&A landscape—not to mention the public equity market.

The reason is simple: Timely, accurate financial data helps substantiate claims, focus conversations, and drive efficient deal execution. If your insights into the capital markets are better than your competitors', you gain a distinct advantage.

In this guide, we look at how you can use PitchBook to quickly build more accurate comps, streamline your valuation workflow and connect with the right buyers and investors—so you can close the right deals faster.

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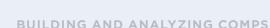


## **Building and analyzing**comps

Whether you're comparing companies or similar transactions, having the right data can mean the difference between closing a deal at the right price or missing out altogether.

By combining comprehensive private transaction data—including the world's largest source of deal multiples and valuations—with public fundamentals and consensus estimates, PitchBook enables you to build more accurate comparables with greater transparency and speed.

Here's how.



## Finding comparable private and public companies

PitchBook allows you to quickly create a list of comparable private and public companies based on the attributes that are most relevant to you or your client—including industry, location, pre- and postmoney valuations, total capital raised, revenue figures and more. This could include identifying all the mobility tech companies in California with Series B funding, for example, or listing all the PE-backed healthtech companies in Europe that have recently been acquired.

#### Conduct a Companies & Deals search

This search option will set up the following advanced search fields for you to select from.

#### 2 Filter by industries, verticals & keywords

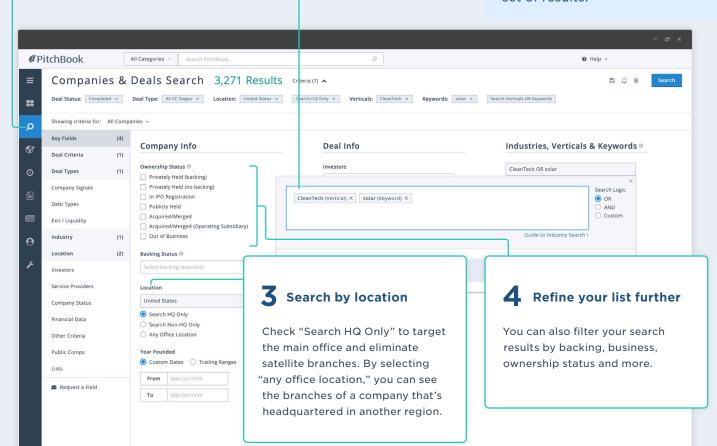
Select an industry and/or vertical to focus in on a sector and then add keywords to target specific products, services or themes.

### Q Using "and/or" search logic within PitchBook

After choosing your search terms, it's important to select "and/or" search logic to broaden or narrow your results.

"OR" search logic mode—
combines all your search
terms with "or," meaning your
search will retrieve results
that contain at least one of
the search terms. This will
yield the broadest set of
results.

"AND" search logic mode—combines all your search terms with "and," meaning your search will retrieve results that contain *all* the search terms you've entered. This will yield the narrowest set of results.





#### Run the search to see an overview of your search results

The overview screen includes quick stats on the number of companies, deals and investors active in the space as well as the largest deal amount, total capital invested and the median postmoney valuation during the time period you've selected.

#### Quickly visualize the aggregate results of your search

Scroll down the page to view other helpful overview charts based on your search results, including up-to-date market maps, capital breakdowns, company count by geography, exits by type over time and more.

### Companies & Deals Search | 2,620 Companies Criteria (3) es; Healthcare × Keywords; diabetes × Search industries AND Keywords Quick Stats Companies to Watch o \$311.22B Investments Over Time • View All Data View All Data Capital Breakdown 6 Company Distribution o Company Count Breakdown by Geography View All Data

#### | LIII Comps charting and analytics

Within the "Pivot Table" tool, you can add and remove fields to build a customized view of the aggregated data from your search results.

With the "Charts" function, you can also edit the chart settings to view the data in different ways, such as a bar graph, pie chart, stacked bars or histograms.

You can also use the drop-down menus at the top of the screen to break down that information by a specific data point—or even export your results to Excel with a single click.

Have existing data you need converted to incorporate information from PitchBook?

Just ask your customer success manager, and they'll happily do it for you.



#### **7** View specific company details

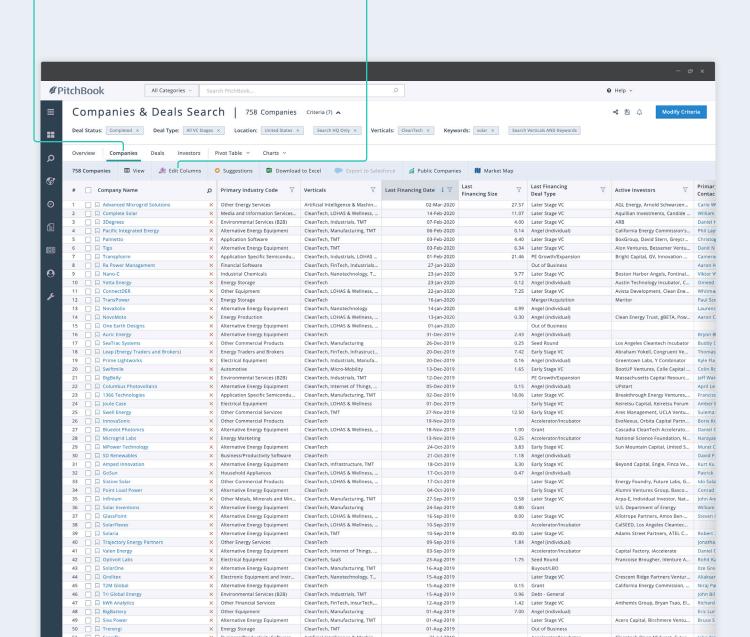
Select the "Companies" tab to quickly reference details on each individual company.

#### 8 Instantly get the specific data you want

Add columns by selecting the "Edit Columns" tab to view the specific data points that matter most to you, whether that's last known valuation, primary industry or verticals, last financing date, type and size, or even active investors.

#### **○** Can't find what you're looking for?

If you're having trouble capturing an accurate space, you can use the live chat feature available in the "Help" drop down to talk to a real person. You can always reach out to your customer success manager directly, too.





## **Conducting due diligence**

Millions of companies and hundreds of thousands of investors and advisors across the globe have profiles on PitchBook that are thoroughly vetted. Simply click on any entity to get detailed information on its financing history, last known valuation, timelines, affiliates, team members, board seats, exits, investors and more.

#### Audit financial data faster

With a single click, you can drill down into any public financial metric within PitchBook to see how it's calculated and access a direct link to the source document.

The same functionality is also available through the PitchBook Excel Plugin.

#### Look at the highlights

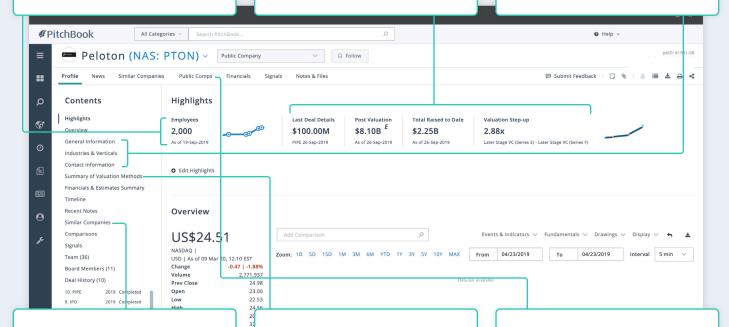
Quickly see employee count, fundraising status, last deal details, post valuation, total raised to date and valuation stepups. You can also swap out what data points are featured here.

#### 2 See relevant timelines

Know when deals happened at a glance by round and amount or round and valuation.

#### **3** Get the basics

View a detailed description of the company, investor or advisor as well as primary contact info for any key decision makers there.



#### 4 View similar companies

View up to three tiers of any company's main competitors.

Note that this is just a sample list—not a comprehensive market map.

#### **5** Access detailed valuation summaries

1,097

3,848

Instantly see key metrics behind each valuation.

#### 6 Get instant access to relevant public comps

Select the "Public Comps" tab to see a list of similar publicly traded companies, including a summary of key metrics such as median and mean ratios for P/E, P/S, PB and EV/EBITDA.



## How solely relying on public market data can result in mispriced deals

Investors often use public market comparables to determine the value of a company in their portfolio. Although private and public companies can share characteristics, they can also differ significantly. These differences affect the underlying value of a public company and create an imperfect comparison for valuing a private company.

To start, public companies are typically much bigger than private companies. They've also had time to sort through growing pains, mature in the market and stabilize. This stability, whether gained through a proven business model, diversified streams of revenue, established consumers or beyond, causes public companies to behave much differently than younger private companies.

Because public companies are more established, they often have lower growth prospects—which influences their fundamentals and the multiples paid for by investors. Companies that go public should also have a greater chance of surviving than younger companies, and therefore trade at higher market enterprise values.

Ultimately, public market data can't provide the apples-to-apples comparison that private market data is capable of. The less similar the comparison between companies, the higher the risk of mispricing a deal.

"For analysts who do not have access to private transaction data, public company data is the only option when it comes to relative valuation.

The peril, though, is that we are extending the pricing lessons we learn from looking at more mature, publicly traded firms to a young, private business."

Aswath Damodaran Professor of Finance Stern School of Business, NYU



### Researching precedent transactions

In addition to offering granular data on thousands of public comps, PitchBook also provides extensive private market data—including EBITDA, pre- and post-money valuations, multiples and deal sizes. This allows you to quickly identify the precedent transactions most relevant to the deal you're working on.

#### Conduct a Companies & Deals search

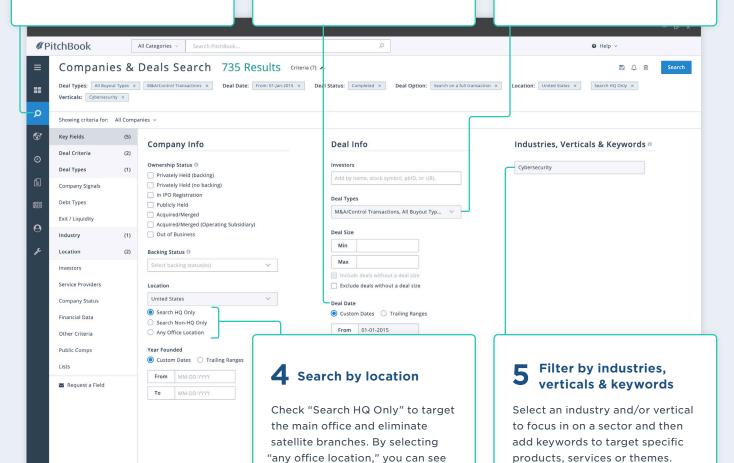
This search option will set up the following advanced search fields for you to select from.

#### 2 Select deal criteria

Check the "Completed" box under "Deal Status" to view completed transactions. Also set a "Deal Date" for relevancy. You can add other deal information such as valuation and deal size, too.

#### **3** Choose deal type

Select the deal type that is most comparable to the deal you're executing.



the branches of a company that's headquartered in another region.

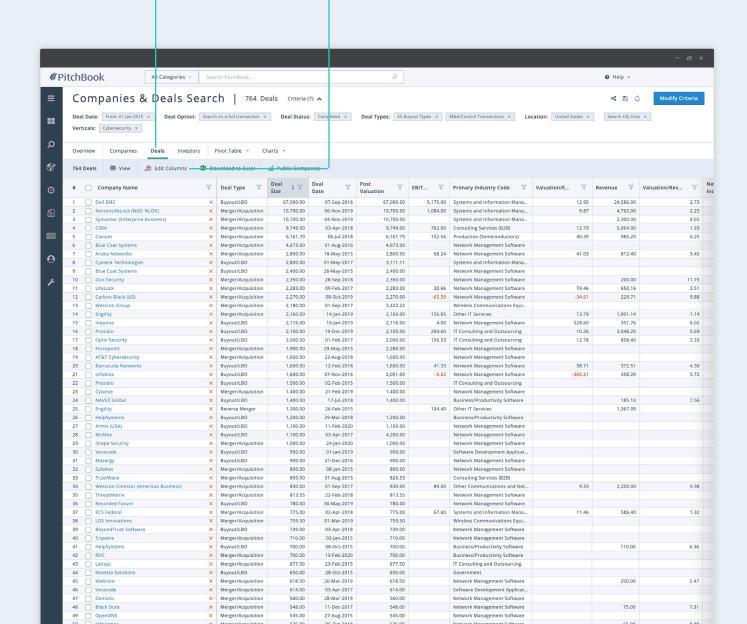


#### 6 View specific deal

Select the "Deals" tab to quickly reference details on each individual deal.

#### 7 Instantly get the specific data you want

Choose the "Edit Columns" tab to view the data points that matter most to you, whether that's last known valuation, primary industry or verticals, last financing date or active investors.





## Researching capital invested by industry, vertical and deal type

After completing a Companies & Deals search, PitchBook's "Charts" and "Pivot Table" tools allow you to add and remove fields to build a customized view of the aggregated data from your search results—including how much capital has been invested over time by industry, vertical and deal type. You can also use the PitchBook Excel Plugin to easily pull the data you need into your own models.

#### **1** Conduct a Companies & Deals search

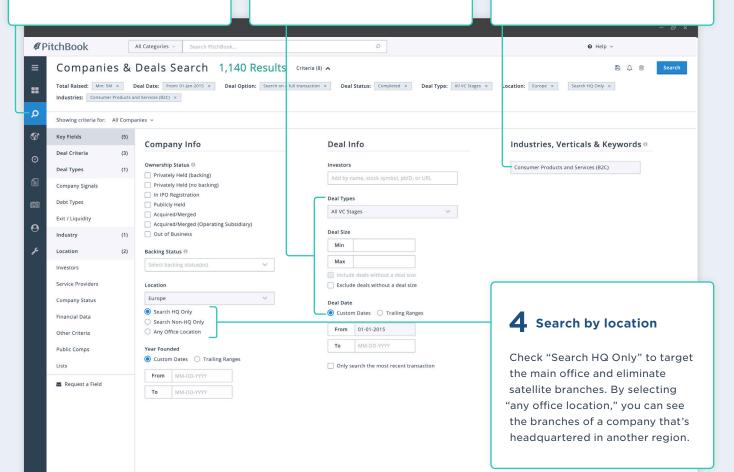
This search option will automatically set up the following advanced search fields for you to select from.

#### 2 Select Deal Criteria

Deal date and deal size are common fields used in conjunction with deal type. Refine your list further by pre- and postmoney valuation amounts, total capital raised and deal status.

#### Filter by industries & keywords

Select an industry and/or vertical to focus in on a sector and then add keywords to target specific products, services or themes.





#### **5** Visualize the data

Select the "Charts" or "Pivot
Table" tools to build a customized
view of the aggregated data
from your search results. To see
an overview of the total capital
invested in a space, you'd want to
choose "Capital Invested" from
the drop-down menu.

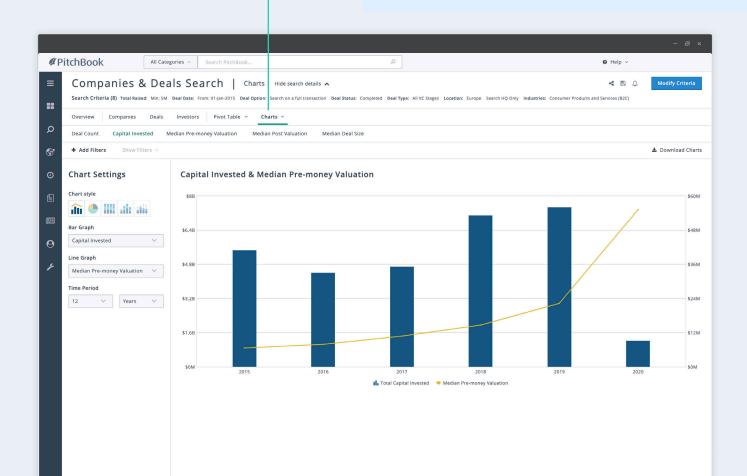
#### **M** Calculating deal multiples

From the "Deals" column of your search results, click "Edit Column" and locate the "Financials & Multiples" section near the middle-right side of the page. This will bring up specific deal multiples for each deal in your search results.

Check any of the empty fields that you want to add. Then simply click and drag each column to rearrange the data.

Then, instead of viewing the individual multiple for each deal, you can use the "Pivot Table" tab to combine all the deals in your search results into one table and view the data as a whole. Simply click on the blue "+" to add the data points you want to review within the table or chart you've created.

Within the "Financials" tab you can also quickly reference forward-looking information based on consensus estimates as you build your comps multiples.





As the maturation period for private companies has lengthened, the secondary market has grown to provide an alternative source of liquidity for individuals and investors. That's where Manhattan Venture Partners, a boutique New York-based merchant bank, comes in.

"We provide liquidity to early investors, entrepreneurs, executives and former or current employees via secondary direct purchases," explains Brad Fishman, Managing Partner.

From finding sellers to raising capital to executing transactions, MVP turns to PitchBook for accurate, comprehensive private market intelligence.

"PitchBook helps us arrive at a value that makes the seller feel comfortable, confident and excited about the trade."

-Brad Fishman, Managing Partner, Manhattan Venture Partners

#### **Efficiently executing transactions**

Access to better data helps Brad accurately price deals, enabling him to build models (and forecast exit potential) based on original issue price, returns and other key metrics. This not only maximizes value but also reduces friction between buyer and seller, ultimately moving deals across the finish line faster.

"PitchBook helps us arrive at a value that makes the seller feel comfortable, confident and excited about the trade. And at the same time, it provides us with access to a business at a fair market discount given the security on offer," explains Brad.



Brad Fishman Managing Partner, Manhattan Venture Partners



## Finding the right buyers, investors and advisors

PitchBook tracks more than 3 million private companies and over 300,000+ investors. Having up-to-date and accurate data on their previous investments, dry powder, fund performance and investment preferences can help you find the most promising ones to work with faster. PitchBook also tracks over 55,000+ advisors, so you can always find the help you need to execute any transaction.

Here's how.



FINDING THE RIGHT BUYERS, INVESTORS AND ADVISORS

### Creating buyers and investors lists

PitchBook allows you to search for strategic acquirers and financial sponsors based on their previous investments, available dry powder, fund performance and investment preferences. For example, you could easily identify the most active VC firms involved in early-stage deals for SaaS companies based in the United Kingdom since 2017.

#### Select the guided buyers list feature

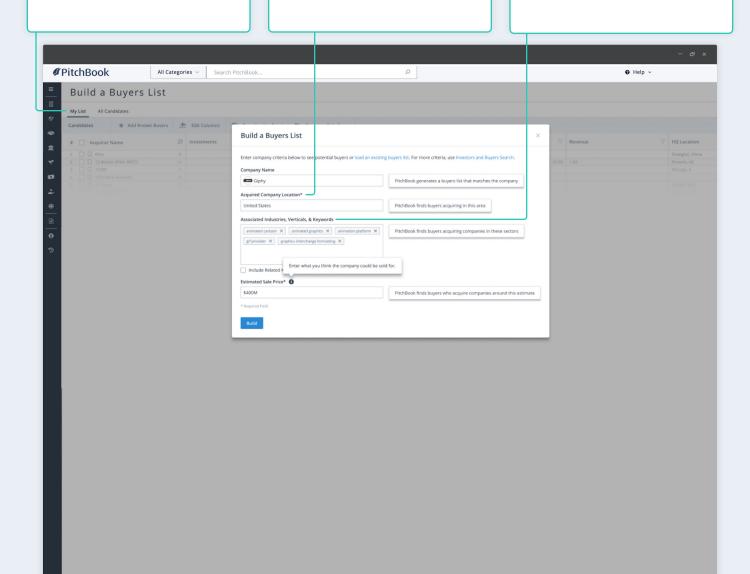
Use the side menu to start making your buyers list.

#### **2** Enter company details

Find buyers based on company criteria such as location, associated industries, verticals and more.

#### **3** Narrow down your results

Zero in on potential buyers based on pre-built filters including investor type, deal size or your client's industry.





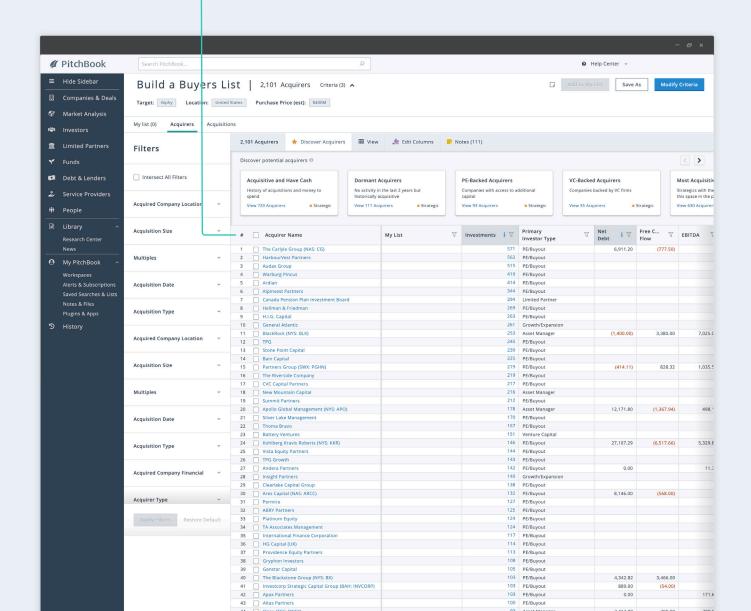
#### FINDING THE RIGHT BUYERS, INVESTORS AND ADVISORS

#### 4 Research acquirers and comparable deals

See in-depth information about acquirers and their comparable transactions.

#### **5** Get in touch

Reach out using contact information on firms and key individuals.





FINDING THE RIGHT BUYERS, INVESTORS AND ADVISORS

## Connecting with target buyers and investors

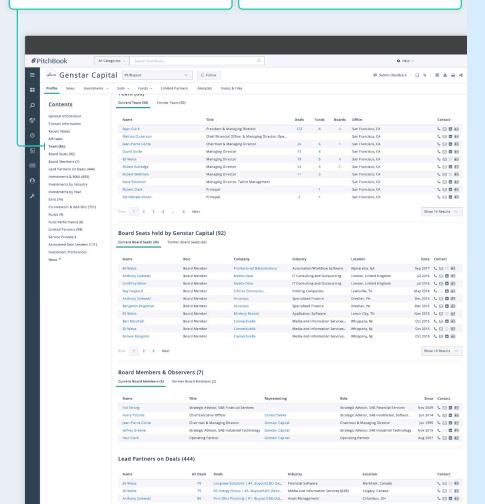
Once you've narrowed down a list of promising buyers or investors, PitchBook makes it simple to identify the best person to contact at each organization so you can reach out immediately. After you've identified key decision makers, you can use the information you've gathered from creating your target list and building comps within PitchBook to negotiate with more confidence.

#### Get key individuals' contact info

Click on each company or investor's name to go to their profile page. Within the "Team" section, you'll find phone numbers and email addresses for key contacts.

#### 2 Export your target list to Excel

PitchBook also gives you the option to export contact information as an Excel CSV file. Contact your customer success manager to find out how.





#### The emergence of preseed funding

The term "seed" has been used for decades to describe the earliest stages of VC investment, but the definition has necessarily changed as the industry has matured. The seed stage has historically been defined by relatively small deal sizes often comprising convertible debt. Over the last decade, however, activity in the stage has grown fast and attracted new investors with larger pools of capital. Because of this increase in early-stage investment activity, seed deals today look more like Series A deals four years ago; Series A deals look like Series B deals six years ago, and so on.

This most recent evolution has led to a bifurcation in the seed market, spawning new terms including "pre-seed," "post-seed" and even "dirt stage" to describe the most nascent scenarios for which broader seed funding is utilized.



FINDING THE RIGHT BUYERS. INVESTORS AND ADVISORS

## Finding advisors and service providers

PitchBook lets you quickly sort through more than 55,000 advisors and service providers active in VC, PE and M&A—including the deals they've done, the clients they serve and the people on their team—so you can connect with the ones with the right experience for your needs. This could include identifying the most active US investment banks that have serviced the most M&A deals in the last five years, for example, or finding the European law firms that have serviced the most late-stage VC deals in the same time frame.

#### Conduct a Service Providers search

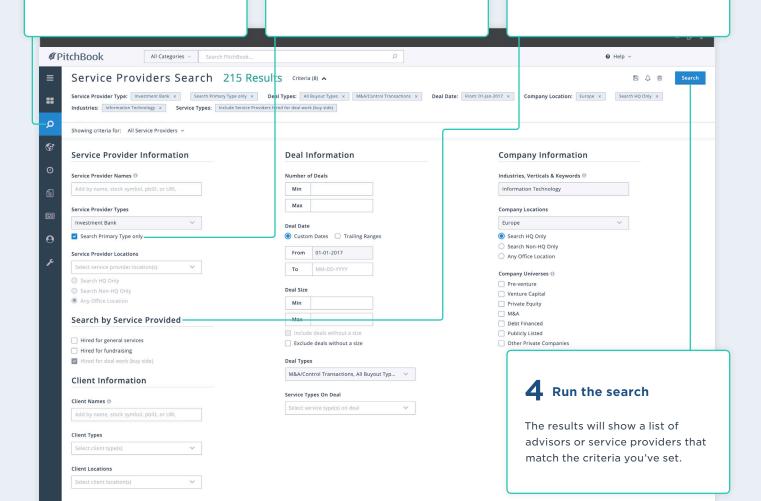
This search option will set up the following advanced search fields for you to select from.

#### 2 Select what type of provider you're looking for

Check the "Search Primary Type Only" box to filter for service providers where their primary function is the type you selected.

#### Search by service provided, deal type and industry

Refine your search results by type of provider, the sort of deals they've done as well as what industries they serve.



How StradVision uses
PitchBook to find
international investors

Founded in 2014, StradVision is a South Korea-based software company that enables autonomous vehicles to recognize objects, understand what they are and know how to interact with them. In December 2019, it completed its Series B funding round for \$27 million, putting its post-money valuation at \$147 million. With more than 100 employees and a fresh round of growth financing, the company is now aggressively expanding its footprint in Europe, North America and Asia.

To help it secure the capital it needs to continue scaling, StradVision leverages PitchBook's comprehensive capital market data to identify and connect with the most relevant investors in its target regions.

"PitchBook is a wonderful platform to acquire critical financial and investment intelligence that helps drive aggressive global growth."

-Hyung-Tae Kim, CPA, VP Finance, StradVision

#### Finding international investors

According to Hyung-Tae Kim, CPA and Vice President of Finance at StradVision, "It can be challenging for Asian companies to raise funds abroad, especially in the West. The network [in Asia] is limited, and the intelligence required to not only connect with global investors, but also pitch them, can be surprisingly difficult."

By using PitchBook's granular data on more than 289,000 investors around the world, StradVision has been able to quickly find and connect with the ones whose interests align with their own. Namely, those who have previously invested in other high-growth software companies that focus on artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Using the platform's Advanced Search feature, StradVision was able to target the right investors in North America quickly with insight into their past investments, dry powder and more.



#### **About PitchBook**

It all started with seven people working in a 200-square-foot, windowless office. Founder John Gabbert was pursuing an idea his former employer nixed—a database that covered private equity.

In 2009, we launched PitchBook Desktop. With each new dataset and feature, we've expanded and improved. Now, PitchBook tracks every aspect of the public and private equity markets, including venture capital, private equity and M&A.

Our focus has always been—and will always be—our clients. What data matters most to them? What would make their jobs easier? How can we help them make informed decisions?

Now part of Morningstar, we continue to give our clients the data and tools they need to be successful.

#### **Contact us**

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