



PEerspective in Tech

Private Equity's Tech
Investing Bandwidth

IBDO


The Private Equity Download

This year, almost half of tech CFOs (48%) expect to engage in M&A activity, while 59% expect tech valuations to increase, according to the [2018 BDO Technology Outlook Survey](#).

What does this mean for private equity?

While tech deal activity continues to advance steadily, private equity is faced with an ever-increasing amount of challenges.

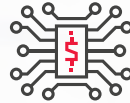
Tech-focused PE fund managers say that directly managing tech companies entails challenges:

42% 
Identifying **Growth Opportunities**

33% 
Finding and Retaining **Management Teams**

Source: [Ninth Annual Private Equity Perspective Survey](#).

To boost tech company valuations, fund managers plan to:



96%
Diversify
products and
services



95%
Evaluate
cybersecurity
risks



91%
Implement **digital**
transformation
strategies

The IT sector is one of the fastest growing areas of private equity-backed buyout deal activity

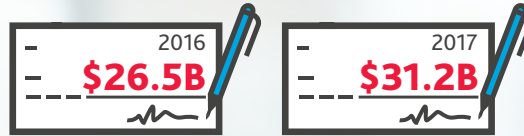
In 2017, a record
823 IT DEALS
were completed
globally. 

Source: [Preqin](#)

Corporate Venture Capital (CVC) Takes a Byte

Armed with mountains of capital and deep tech knowledge, the corporate venture capital arms of companies like Google and Intel are confidently deploying capital in the tech arena

Across the world, CVC groups completed **1,791 deals** totaling **\$31.2 billion** in 2017, up from 1,501 deals totaling \$26.5 billion in 2016



Source: [CB Insights](#)

44%

of all CVC investments in 2017 were in **software companies**



Source: [Industry Ventures](#)

In Japan, corporate venture capital spending hit an all-time high of



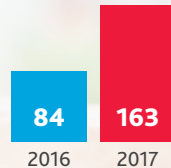
over \$670M

in 2017, as companies like Toyota, Sony, and Panasonic invested heavily in startups

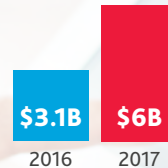
source: [Japan Venture Research](#)

CVC investments in Chinese companies nearly doubled between 2016 to 2017

Deals increased by **94%**



Funding also nearly doubled



Source: [CB Insights](#)

AI deals with CVC participation grew **32%** in 2017



150 deals
2016



198 deals
2017

Source: [CB Insights](#)

Sovereign Wealth Funds Optimize the Search for Tech



In the year up to Nov. 22, 2017, Asian sovereign wealth funds invested more than \$6 billion directly into tech, \$1 billion more than they did during the same period in 2016.*

In terms of cross-border partnerships, for example, China Investment Corporation (CIC) Capital and the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) teamed up in mid-March to create a €150 million fund to invest in high-growth Irish tech companies that want to access the Chinese market.

This new fund is a successor to the \$100 million China Ireland Technology Growth Fund, announced in 2014 by ISIF's predecessor, the National Pensions Reserve Fund, and CIC.

*Source: [Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute's SWF Transaction Database](#)



PE, CVC & SWFs Combine Codes



As the rush for tech targets intensifies, sovereign wealth funds are teaming up with venture capital firms, pension funds, private equity firms, strategics and CVCs to get deals done. In fact, according to PitchBook data, they were partners on some of the largest tech deals of 2017:

Nets Group, a Danish developer of digital payment technology designed to provide digital payment services, was acquired by Hellman & Friedman, Advent International, Bain Capital, Fisher Lynch Capital, Sampo, StepStone Group, and GIC Partners, which is one of Singapore's sovereign wealth funds. The deal was completed as a \$5.3 billion public-to-private LBO on Sept. 25, 2017.

IDEMIA, a French provider of electronic security systems and identity management services, was acquired by Oberthur Technologies via its financial sponsor, Advent International, through a \$2.7 billion LBO on May 31, 2017. France's sovereign wealth fund, Bpifrance also took a minority stake in the company.

Didi Chuxing, a Chinese mobile ride-hailing application, raised \$4 billion of venture funding from SoftBank Capital, the United Arab Emirates' sovereign wealth fund Mubadala Development, and other undisclosed investors on Dec. 21, 2017, putting the company's pre-money valuation at \$52 billion. The funding will be used to invest in artificial intelligence technology, international expansion, and new business initiatives.

NeuStar, a U.S.-based provider of real-time information and analytics services, was acquired by Golden Gate Capital and Singapore's GIC through a \$2.9 billion public-to-private LBO on Aug. 8, 2017.



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