

The C-Suite Recruiter List - 2026 Edition

Helping senior executives navigate the search firm landscape

Originally published in April 2023 as the Ultimate CMO Headhunter List, this resource was designed to support marketers between roles by helping them connect with relevant executive search firms. Since then, it has evolved into a broader set of support at Sideminds.com, not only for securing roles, but for helping a wider set of leaders take control of their long-term career strategy.

How This List Helps

This list is an entry point to the permanent recruiter ecosystem. It identifies firms by website, fame tier, industry or function focus, public description and the number of people known by Sideminds in each firm.

The fame tier rating is a guide to awareness only and produced by Fellows in The Marketing Academy. It is not an endorsement and it is not a measure of performance. Tier 1 firms are generally larger and better-known, Tier 2 firms are established boutiques or specialists, and Tier 3 firms are other firms where awareness may be narrower or more specific.

The list is long and filtering matters. It is important to build a shortlist by sector, function, and likely fit. As a guide, you generally want to build a warm recruiter network of around 30 to 40 people, with closer relationships with 5 to 10 of the most relevant contacts.

Defining this shortlist and creating these tight groups of relationships is made easier using the Sideminds **Job Hunting AI Coach** and Sideminds **Tailored 121 coaching** programmes. These active trainers help you not just **hone your proposition, brand and CV**, but connect you with **named recruiters** relevant to you and show you how to activate your network quickly and easily.

Recruiter relationships should be managed with care. Many recruiters can be part of your career network for years, but they are client-led and may not reply every time. A clear proposition, targeted outreach and thoughtful follow-up will usually work better than volume.

Sideminds Job Hunting AI Coach

Our **Job Hunting AI Coach** helps senior leaders organise and improve their job search. It can help you sharpen your role target, strengthen your CV and LinkedIn positioning, prepare for recruiter conversations and create a more focused approach to the market.

You can **ask the Job Hunting AI coach anything**. It will help you define your FTE proposition, structure your CV, identify the recruiters, activate your own network and manage your job hunting funnel in a targeted and effective way.

The programme also **includes a one-hour follow-up consultation** with Gareth Helm. Gareth has held multiple full-time C-suite roles and can help you refine your CV, sharpen your proposition and identify the recruiters and connectors most relevant to your goals.

These **low-cost programmes** are designed to accelerate and enhance your job search.

Sideminds Tailored 121 Coaching

Navigating change on your own can be hard and exhausting whether in role or between roles. Our fully supported coaching programmes provide senior C-suite support to help you find your path through change.

These blend **coaching with experienced directional mentoring** when requested, so you always have a clear plan. If you are in role, this can include wider diagnostic testing and 360° assessments, so you can understand more about career choices which will suite you more

If between roles, this is can be practical step-by-step activity that builds momentum, enhances your focus and keeps you on track in achieving your goals. This might be developing an **interim or wider portfolio career**.

These structured programmes are **tailored to your needs** and generally include 3-5x 1hour 1:1 coaching session with prework.

Need More Help

If you would like a free 30-minute consultation to discuss your permanent job search, recruiter strategy or wider career needs, please contact Gareth.

Gareth Helm
Gareth.Helm@Sideminds.com

Company	Website	Fame rating	Industry/function	Online description	Sideminds number of contacts
360 Leaders	https://360leaders.com/	3	Tech, Digital, VC/PE-backed, Startups, Scaleups, Leadership, Product, Commercial	360Leaders are the leading Organisational Strategy and Executive Search firm supporting scale-ups, boards and investors worldwide.	2
3Search	https://www.3search.co.uk/	2	Digital Marketing, eCommerce, CRM, Performance, Brand, Product, UX/UI	Marketing, digital and growth recruitment specialist with an executive search offering.	1
Acertitude	https://www.acertitude.com/	3	Private Equity, Industrial, Tech, Healthcare, Professional Services	Acertitude teams connect boards, CEOs, private equity executives.	4
AlphaSkill	https://alphaskill.com/	3	Tech, Data, Engineering, Software, Startups (early stage), Product	AlphaSkill is a specialized Private Equity Advisory & Executive Search Firm. Private Equity Investors and industry-leading CEOs, CFOs and Non-Executive Board Members.	3
Altrua	https://altruapeople.com/	3	Financial Services, Insurance, Fintech, Investments, Risk, Compliance	Boutique firm specialised in hiring board teams, enabling both commercial and cultural evolution. Friendly and active. Sainsbury, John Lewis, Fortnum & Mason	2
Alumni	https://alumnglobal.com/	3	Strategy, Management Consulting alumni placements into corporates	Alumni adds a fully rounded perspective to leadership development, executive search and talent management.	2
Amrop	https://www.amrop.com/uk/	3	Board, CEO, Healthcare, Industrial, Consumer, Financial Services, Tech	Amrop is one of the world's largest retained executive search partnerships, offering a range of Leadership and Board Services.	3
Arrowsmith Fox	https://www.arrowsmithfox.com/	3	Senior marketing, customer and ecommerce executive search for retail, D2C and B2B SaaS	Search firm focused on senior marketing, customer and ecommerce roles across retail, D2C and B2B SaaS.	1
Audeliss	https://www.audeliss.com/	3	Diversity & Inclusion-focused searches, Leadership across all sectors	Audeliss have worked across different sectors and roles to appoint senior leaders at global organizations including Sky, eBay, Google, JP Morgan, Mastercard.	3
August Leadership	https://augustleadership.com/	3	Consumer, Healthcare, Financial Services, Industrial, Tech, Board & C-suite	Clients range from global multinationals to mid-size fast-growth organizations to pioneering start-ups.	1
Banff	https://www.banffadvisors.com/	3	Executive advisory	Executive advisory firm.	1
Beaumont Bailey	https://www.beaumontbailey.com/	3	Industrial, Infrastructure, Energy, Engineering, Tech, Private Equity	Beaumont Bailey is a specialist firm covering executive search, leadership consulting.	1
Berwick Partners (Odgers Berndtson company)	https://www.berwickpartners.co.uk/	3	Mid-level executive, Commercial, Finance, HR, Education, Healthcare, Not-for-Profit	Focused on for senior management positions across the commercial, public and not-for-profit sectors.	2
Blackwood	https://www.blackwoodgroup.com/	2	Communications, Marketing, Digital, Investor Relations, Corporate Affairs	Executive search boutique focused on consumer, leisure, retail, technology and fintech.	2

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Boyden	https://www.boyden.com/	2	Healthcare, Consumer, Industrial, Tech, Financial Services, Professional Services, Nonprofit, Government	Leadership and talent advisory firm with executive search and interim capability.	2
BPE Search	https://www.bpe-search.com/	2	Commercial Leadership, Marketing, Sales, Strategy, Consumer, Tech, Digital	Leadership recruitment and executive search firm across consumer, private equity and industrial sectors.	3
Calibre One	https://www.calibreone.com/	2	Technology, Digital Transformation, Executive Search, Board and Leadership	Global executive search firm specialising in building leadership teams for technology businesses and companies undergoing digital transformation.	2
Campbell Reed	https://www.campbellreed.com/	2	Marketing, Communications, Digital, Tech, Consumer, Financial Services	Executive search firm focused on consumer-facing sectors and investor-backed growth businesses.	3
Caval	https://www.caval.co.uk/	3	Construction, Engineering, Executive Search, Talent Solutions	Construction and engineering recruitment business with Talent Solutions division.	1
CDR Global	https://cdr.global/	3	Talent advisory, hospitality, human experience industries	Talent advisory firm focused on hospitality and human experience-driven industries.	1
Chaberton Partners	https://chabertonpartners.com/	3	Financial Services, Life Sciences, Industrial, Consumer, Tech, HR	Chaberton Partners helps build C-level teams and boards.	1
Claridge Partners	https://claridgepartners.com/	2	Executive Search & Talent Advisory, FMCG, consumer	Boutique executive search and talent advisory firm focused on FMCG and consumer sectors.	1
Clarity	https://claritysearch.co.uk/	3	Tech, Startups, SaaS, Digital, Commercial, Product, Growth, Marketing	Clarity Search is an executive search firm focused on the retail, consumer, hospitality, travel & leisure sectors.	3
Daversa Partners	https://www.daversapartners.com/	3	Venture-backed startups, Tech, SaaS, Growth-stage companies	Technology specialty firm that builds the executive teams for growth stage and venture-backed companies.	1
DHR Global	https://www.dhrglobal.com/	3	Private Equity, Industrial, Consumer, Healthcare, Life Sciences, Financial Services, Tech	DHR's executive talent expertise includes Advanced Technology, Financial Services, Private Equity, Human Resources, Industrial, Consumer & Retail and Sports.	2
DNA Recruit	https://www.dnarecruit.com/	3	Digital, Marketing, Creative, Advertising, Tech, eCommerce, Agencies	Specialised in: New Business Account and Project Management Strategy and Planning Creative and User Experience Design Technology Product Marketing Data.	1
Drax Executive	https://draxexecutive.com/	2	Private Equity-backed businesses, Portfolio Executives, Finance, Ops, Tech, C-Suite	Leadership advisory and executive search firm for high-growth and private equity-backed businesses.	3
Drayton Partners	https://www.draytonpartners.com/	3	Consumer, Retail, FMCG, Food & Drink, Beauty, Consumer Health, Supply Chain, Operations, Commercial Leadership	Consumer sector executive search firm with sector specialist partners covering food and drink, retail, apparel, beauty, consumer health, supply chain and operations.	7

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Egon Zehnder	https://www.egonzehnder.com/	1	Board, CEO, Consumer, Financial Services, Healthcare, Industrial, Technology & AI, Private Capital	Leadership advisory firm. Original panel note retained. Public company page shows global scale rather than verified UK headcount.	7
Elevate Talent	https://www.oneelevate.com/talent	3	Sports, Media, Entertainment, Lifestyle, Gaming, Leadership Advisory, Executive Search	Global executive search and leadership advisory business focused on sport, media, entertainment, lifestyle and gaming.	8
Erevena	https://www.erevena.com/	2	Tech, SaaS, Private Equity, Venture Capital, Startups, Scaleups	Board and C-suite search firm for high-growth companies and investment firms.	4
Eric Salmon & Partners	https://www.ericssalmon.com/	3	Board, CEO, Governance Advisory, Leadership Advisory, Executive Search across consumer, financial services, healthcare, industrial and technology	International leadership and talent consulting firm specialising in executive search, governance advisory and leadership advisory.	3
Essenta	https://essentapartners.com/	3	Executive Search, Executive Interim, Leadership Advisory, Consumer, B2B, CFO, Technology & Digital, Private Equity and Venture Capital	Global search and talent advisory firm with London and New York offices. Covers executive search, interim and leadership advisory across consumer, B2B, finance and technology.	6
Eton Bridge	https://www.etonbridgepartners.com/	2	Finance, HR, Transformation, Board, Operations, Private Equity	Interim management, executive recruitment and consulting firm serving UK and European clients.	3
Exley Hervey	https://www.exleyhervey.com/	3	Digital & Multichannel Retail, Global Luxury Brands, Arts & Culture	Specialist executive search company focused on digital and multichannel retail, global luxury brands, and arts and culture.	2
F1 Recruitment	https://www.f1recruitment.com/	3	Marketing, Communications, PR, Advertising, Digital, Media, Sports Marketing	Marketing, communications and sports marketing recruiter placing talent from senior leadership to board and C-suite roles.	3
Faraday Partners	https://www.faradaypartners.com/	3	Leadership Hiring, Organisational Design, Talent Development, PE and venture backed growth businesses	Leadership hiring and talent advisory firm focused on venture, private equity and growth businesses.	4
Fidelio Partners	https://www.fideliopartners.com/	3	Board Advisory, Chair Advisory, Board & Executive Search, Development and Succession	London-based board and leadership advisory firm focused on chair advisory, board review, board and executive search, and succession.	4
Forme Partners	https://www.formepartners.com/	2	Legal, Compliance, Risk, Governance – across Financial Services & Corporates	Executive search boutique focused on senior commercial and board-level hiring.	2
Fortune Hill	https://www.fortunehill.co.uk/	2	Marketing, Digital, eCommerce, Communications, Consumer, Retail	Leadership search boutique specialising in marketing, commercial and HR appointments.	5
Founders Keepers	https://www.founderskeepers.co/	2	Digital, Growth, VC/PE-backed firms, Marketing, Product, Revenue, Strategy	Search firm that helps high-growth companies build leadership teams.	3

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Freshminds	https://www.freshminds.co.uk/	3	Search, consultants on demand, strategy, consulting, private equity, digital transformation and interim resource	Search and talent business supporting strategy, consulting, private equity and fast-growth clients through executive search and consultants on demand.	4
GatenbySanderson	https://www.gatenbysanderson.com/	3	Public sector executive search, interim leadership, board advisory and leadership & talent across government, health, education, housing and not for profit	Public sector focused executive search and leadership firm working across government, health, education, housing, regulation and not for profit.	5
Gordon & Eden	https://www.gordoneden.co.uk/	3	Digital and technology executive search for start-up, scale-up and corporate businesses	Digitally native executive search firm focused on senior digital and technology leaders for start-up, scale-up and corporate clients.	2
Grace Blue	https://www.graceblue.com/	2	Marketing, Media, Advertising, Communications, Digital, Brand	Global executive search and advisory firm for transformational leadership across brands, agencies, media and entertainment.	3
Green Park	https://www.green-park.co.uk/	3	Executive Search, Interim Management, Leadership Advisory, Diversity & Inclusion across private sector, public sector and civil society	Leadership search, interim and advisory business spanning private and commercial, public sector and civil society mandates.	6
Growth Kind	https://www.growthkind.co.uk/	2	Digital Marketing, eCommerce, CRM, Performance, Brand, Product, UX/UI	Marketing, digital and growth recruitment specialist with an executive search offering.	1
H.I. Executive Consulting (HIEC)	https://www.hiec.com/	2	Digital Transformation, Tech, Consumer, Financial Services, Private Equity	Global executive search and leadership advisory firm covering board, digital and sector leadership mandates.	1
Hannington Tame	https://www.hanningtontame.com/	3	Digital leadership, ecommerce, customer, brand and performance marketing talent	Executive search team specialising in digital leadership, ecommerce, customer, brand and performance marketing talent.	1
HBAL	https://hballondon.com/	3	Media, Marketing, Digital and Creative executive search and consultancy	Boutique executive search business working globally across media, marketing, digital and creative sectors.	1
Heidrick & Struggles	https://www.heidrick.com/	1	Executive Search, Leadership Advisory, On-Demand Talent	Global leadership advisory and on-demand talent provider. Original panel note retained. Public sources report global company size bands rather than verified UK headcount.	6
Hoggett Bowers	https://www.hoggett-bowers.com/	3	Board, CEO, Financial Services, Energy, Industrial, Consumer, Retail	Experts in Executive Recruitment.	4
Holmes Noble	https://holmesnoble.com/	3	Industrial, Energy, Engineering, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Supply Chain	Talent advisory and executive search.	4

Company	Website	Fame rating	Industry/function	Online description	Sideminds number of contacts
Hunter-Miller	https://hunter-miller.com/	2	Consumer, Retail, Supply Chain, Operations, Board, HR, Diversity	Search and advisory boutique operating across marketing, insight, sales and trading.	3
HW Global	https://hwgroup.co/	3	Global executive search and interim management across C-suite, chair, NED and board leadership roles	Global talent acquisition partner offering executive search and interim management solutions.	1
Hydrogen Group	https://www.hydrogengroup.com/en	3	Legal, Financial Services, Life Sciences, Business Transformation, Tech	Operating a portfolio of brands from offices across nine countries.	4
Intelligent People	https://www.intelligentpeople.co.uk/	3	Digital, Product, UX/UI, Marketing, Growth, SaaS, eCommerce	A boutique recruitment agency, with experience within product, marketing, eCommerce and Leadership.	2
Ivy Street	https://www.ivystreet.net/	3	Executive search across creative, media, marketing & advertising sectors	Work predominantly on Senior Executive appointments including Chairmen, Committee Chairs and Non-Executives for clients in the Consumer, Media, Digital, Technology and Business Services sectors.	1
JBM	https://jbmc.co.uk/	3	Startups, Fintech, Scaleups, Product, Strategy, Go-To-Market	Specialise in connecting executives and senior Operators into Startups & Scaleups (Seed to Series C) on a permanent, fractional, interim and advisory basis. Friendly	3
JD & Co	https://www.jdand.co/	2	Tech, Digital, VC & PE-backed firms, Executive & Board hires	Global Executive Search and Advisory firm for ambitious startups, scaleups and sector disruptors.	2
Kingsley Gate	https://www.kingsleygate.com/	3	Private Equity, Financial Services, Healthcare, Industrial, Consumer, Tech	A leading, global, retained executive search firm.	3
Korn Ferry	https://www.kornferry.com/	1	Board & CEO, Consumer, Financial Services, Industrial, Technology, Digital	Global organisational consulting and executive search firm. Public company page shows global scale rather than verified UK headcount.	7
La Fosse	https://www.lafosse.com/	3	Tech, Digital, Leadership, Cybersecurity, Software Engineering, Transformation	Executive Search, Interim Management, Technology & Security, Digital & Data, Business Change & Transformation.	4
Leathwaite	https://www.leathwaite.com/	3	Financial Services, Private Equity, Professional Services, CIO, CTO, HR, Risk	Functional search specialists.	7
LHH	https://www.lhh.com/en-gb/organisations/recruitment-solutions/executive-search	3	Leadership Development, Talent Solutions, HR, Career Transition, Corporate Advisory	Global leader in HR solutions worldwide. Friendly.	1
Lucident			Executive Search, Leadership Assessment, Coaching, Talent Acquisition		1
Lumina Search	https://luminasearch.com/	3	Media, Entertainment, Broadcasting, Digital Content, Tech, Publishing	Specialist search consultancy conducting senior executive searches for companies in the media and entertainment sectors.	3

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MacGregor Black	https://macgregorblack.com/	3	Retail, Consumer, FMCG, Food & Beverage, Sport, eCommerce	Recruitment at executive & management level, within the consumer & retail industry.	1
Miles Advisory		3	Board Advisory, Executive Search, Public and Third Sector, Financial Services	Independent search and advisory firm providing board advisory, executive search and people solutions across commercial, public and third sector clients; London based, working nationally and internationally.	1
MontaRosa	https://www.montarosa.com/	3	Tech, VC & PE-backed firms, Startups, Scaleups, Executive hires	Leadership search firm focused on placements including Board, C-level, Divisional Heads, and key deal-making and/or individual contributors.	4
MWM	https://www.mwmconsulting.com/	3	Media, Advertising, Digital, Tech, Entertainment, Marketing, Communications	Boutique executive search firm working with a wide range of FTSE, private, family-owned and PE-backed businesses across a broad range of sectors including consumer goods, retail, QSR, banking and insurance, telco, media, digital, transport, leisure, healthcare, industrial and B2B. Work on ExCo, ExCo-1 as well as NED roles.	6
Odgers Berndtson	https://www.odgers.com/en-gb/	1	Executive Search, Leadership Consulting, Consumer, Entertainment & Sports, Financial Services, Technology & IT Services	Global executive search and leadership advisory firm. Public company pages show group and UK pages with different size bands; UK headcount from source workbook retained.	11
Oldworth	https://www.oldworth.co.uk/	2	Digital, Technology, Media, Consumer, Private Equity, CEO/C-suite	Executive search firm appointing CEOs and C-level executives for owner-managed, private equity-backed, private and public companies in digital, technology, media and consumer sectors.	1
Page Executive		2	Executive Search, Interim, Board and Non-Executive, Multi-sector and Multi-function	Executive search and recruitment division of PageGroup, with principals and partners across multiple markets; provides permanent and interim placements, non-executive appointments and talent advisory services.	1
Partnerwise	https://www.partnerwise.co.uk/	3	Communications, Marketing, Sport, Executive Search, Interim, Talent Intelligence	Global executive search, interim and talent intelligence firm using AI-powered sourcing and market insight to find leadership talent.	1
PeopleScout	https://www.peoplescout.com/		RPO, MSP, talent advisory	Recruitment process outsourcing and talent advisory business.	1
Per Adua	https://www.per-ardua.com/	2	Financial Services, Banking, Consumer Finance, Insurance, Asset and Wealth Management, Real Assets	Executive search and leadership advisory firm focused on financial services, supporting clients across banking, consumer finance, insurance, asset and wealth management, and real assets.	2
Renaissance Leadership	https://www.renaissance-leadership.com/	2	Tech, Digital, SaaS, VC/PE-backed growth companies, Leadership roles	Executive search firm focused on leadership teams for privately held technology businesses.	1
Riviera Partners	https://rivierapartners.com/	3	Technology, Engineering, Product and Design leadership search	Global executive recruiting firm specialising in technology, engineering, product and design leadership.	1
Russell Reynolds	https://www.russellreynolds.com/	1	Board, CEO, Consumer, Financial Services, Industrial, Technology	Global leadership advisory and executive search firm. Public company page shows global scale rather than verified UK headcount.	10

Company	Website	Fame rating	Industry/function	Online description	Sideminds number of contacts
Sam Allen Associates	https://www.samallen.co.uk/	2	Marketing, Digital, Communications, Media, Consumer	Boutique board and executive search firm with strong consumer and governance focus.	2
Sayer Haworth	https://sayerhaworth.com/	3	Financial Services, Banking, Insurance, Executive Search, Interim	Executive search and interim solutions advisory firm serving SME banks and SME financial services and insurance companies.	1
Spencer Stuart	https://www.spencerstuart.com/	1	Board, CEO, Consumer, Financial Services, Industrial, Technology, Private Equity	Executive search and leadership advisory firm. Public company page shows global scale rather than verified UK headcount.	6
Teneo	https://www.teneo.com/		CEO Advisory, Strategic Communications, People Advisory, Executive Search, Board Search	Global CEO advisory firm providing integrated advisory services, including people advisory and executive search.	1
The MBS Group	https://www.thembsgroup.co.uk/	2	Consumer, Retail, Hospitality, Fashion, Tech, Media, Digital, Private Equity	Board and executive search firm focused on consumer-facing sectors and transformative leadership.	6
The Talent Business	https://www.thetalentbusiness.com/	2	Marketing, Advertising, Creative, Brand, Media, Digital Transformation	Global executive search firm in the brand, innovation and transformation space.	3
The Up Group	https://www.theupgroup.com/	2	Tech, Digital, VC & PE-backed businesses, Product, Commercial, Executive Leadership	Executive search firm focused on technology and growth leadership roles.	2
TheZoo.London	https://thezoo.london/	3	Consulting and executive search for media, marketing and communications leadership roles	Consulting collective with a dedicated executive search division focused on senior media, marketing and communications talent.	1
TML Partners	https://tmlpartners.com/	2	B2B Marketing, Professional Services, Tech, Legal, Financial Services	Specialist executive search firm focused on commercial, marketing, communications, product and digital leadership.	6
Warren Partners	https://warrenpartners.co.uk/	2	Board, C-suite, NEDs, Across multiple sectors including Retail, Healthcare, Education	Purpose-driven employee-owned search firm for boards and executive leadership teams.	2
Wilton and Bain	https://wilton-bain.com/	2	Technology, Financial Services, Retail, Energy, Professional Services, Board and C-suite	Global executive search and interim management firm working at board, C-suite and functional leadership level across sectors including technology, financial services, retail, energy and professional services.	2

Note:

Every effort has been made to ensure the information is as accurate as possible, but like any industry, firms and people move. We will update the list when we can with the latest data. This list is published following a Legitimate Interest Assessment under Article 6(1)(f) of the UK/EU GDPR for the benefit of Sideminds members. To opt out or request more information, please contact Gareth Helm.