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PE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

PE Intelligence Report

Aldaron's engineers build alongside its companies' managers, and some will sit on their boards. Ask which of the company's own people can run what they build.

Week of October 12, 2026

PUBLISHED

OCTOBER 19, 2026

On 15 October 2026 the Wall Street Journal reported that Aldaron, a new private-equity firm, closed its debut fund with “roughly \$885 million in commitments”, and that half of its 12-person staff are engineers who build systems alongside managers.

We think the capacity a fund’s engineers build is worth at exit what the company’s own people can run.

This page gives you one question for each management team and one line to write for each system.

The Journal reports where Aldaron’s engineers work, and not what stays with the company at exit

Mark Maurer’s article, read in Yahoo Finance’s syndicated copy, describes one new firm, seven months into its first acquisition and with no exit yet: Aldaron is “co-founded by private markets and engineering veterans from Palantir and the Carlyle Group” and is “testing the strategy on its first acquisition”, Oak Point Partners, in which it bought a majority stake in March.

Jay Grewal, one of the engineers who will sit on boards, told the Journal: “If you want to own the whole problem and actually do the transformation, you can’t come in with just a limited skill set of being able to just deploy AI.”

Aldaron’s engineers sit beside managers and on boards; the Journal does not say what stays with the company at exit.

What the Journal reports	In its words	What stays with the company at exit
Engineers beside managers	“Half of Aldaron’s 12-person staff ... are engineers who build systems alongside managers.”	Not stated
Engineers on committees and boards	“Some of the engineers, including Grewal, will sit on investment committees and boards of its companies.”	Not stated
What Aldaron says about headcount	Aldaron co-founder Evan Mendez, formerly of Carlyle’s technology-buyout team, told the Journal that it “avoids businesses whose strategy involves laying people off.”	Not stated
The first company	Oak Point’s workforce “has grown by 20% to 75 employees since March”, the company’s figure, as its chief executive, Eric Linn, told the Journal	Not stated
Another venture	Blackstone and Hellman & Friedman have “AI-related initiatives, including a joint venture in which engineers embed in portfolio companies.”	Not stated

The Journal’s line on Blackstone and Hellman & Friedman links to a separate article, which was not read; nothing more is said of it here.

The third and fourth rows are what Aldaron and one company say about headcount: the firm says it avoids businesses whose strategy involves laying people off and that its investments are aimed at “increasing head count”, and Oak Point’s chief executive gave the Journal its own figure. Neither shows what the fund’s engineers replace or do not replace.

We expect neither Aldaron nor the venture the Journal names to say by Saturday 31 October 2026 what stays with a company at exit. We are wrong if either does.

Price what a buyer would have to replace

Work the sum once, with figures that are illustrative: if at exit a buyer must replace four fund engineers at £120,000 a year each, it prices £480,000 a year of running cost into its offer. The four and the £120,000 are our examples, and no firm's figures.

Then put the company's own count in their place: how many of the systems in the plan were built by people who leave with the fund.

Ask each management team which of its own people can run each system

If your fund places engineers in its companies, or plans to, the question is one management can answer from its own plan:

Of the systems the fund's engineers build with us, which of our own people can run and change each one, and by when?

A good answer is a name and a date for each system. If a system has no name, that is the finding to take to the next board.

The company's programme owner can build the list from this week's Way Pointer at capability.ai/blog/a-name-beside-every-engineer, a page that puts a named person beside each engineer placed in a company, with hours a week and cover for the day job.

Write one line for each system

For each system the fund's engineers build, write the owner on the company's side and the date that person runs it alone. For example:

Company _____. System _____. Built by _____. Owner on the company's side: _____. Runs it alone from: _____.

Done when: every system has an owner and a date.

BusinessGPS publishes the PE Intelligence Report every week. Get the weekly email at capability.ai/newsletter.

Sources

1. The Wall Street Journal, Mark Maurer, New Private-Equity Firm Specializes in Giving Companies AI Glow-Ups, 15 October 2026, read as syndicated by Yahoo Finance: <https://finance.yahoo.com/technology/ai/articles/private-equity-firm-specializes-giving-100000878.html>. The original, <https://www.wsj.com/finance/investing/a-new-private-equity-firm-specializes-in-giving-companies-ai-glow-ups-86fcb48e>, is behind a paywall and was not read. Oak Point's workforce figure is the company's chief executive's, as told to the Journal. The article the Journal links on Blackstone and Hellman & Friedman was not opened.