

# Aerospace and Defense Services and Solutions

A research report comparing provider strengths,  
challenges and competitive differentiators

Introduction	03	Contacts for this Study	17
About the Study		Advisor Involvement	
Quadrants Research	06	Advisor Involvement – Program	
Definition	08	Description	18
Quadrants by Regions	12	Advisory Team	18
ISG's Framework	13		
Schedule	14		
Client Feedback Nominations	15	Invited Companies	19
Methodology & Team	16	About our Company & Research	21

## Introduction

The aerospace and defense (A&D) industry in 2026 is poised for dynamic transformation, driven by advancements in technology, strategic shifts in defense priorities and evolving market demands. Key trends include:

- Adoption of lightweight, durable materials such as ceramic matrix composites and next-generation alloys to enhance fuel efficiency and performance.
- Additive manufacturing to move beyond prototyping to production, enabling complex, lightweight parts and faster assembly cycles.
- Digital tools such as model-based definitions and digital twins to accelerate design and testing processes, improving accuracy and shortening program timelines.

Commercial aerospace will focus on reviving production rates and managing persistent aircraft backlogs, emphasizing fleet reliability and sustainment. Supply chain resilience remains a priority, investing in reducing redundancy and enhancing supplier development and digital visibility to mitigate geopolitical and market volatility risks. In 2026, A&D firms should integrate digital

transformation strongly into manufacturing, supply chain and sustainment strategies while navigating tighter compliance and faster production requirements to capture growth opportunities in defense modernization and commercial aerospace recovery.

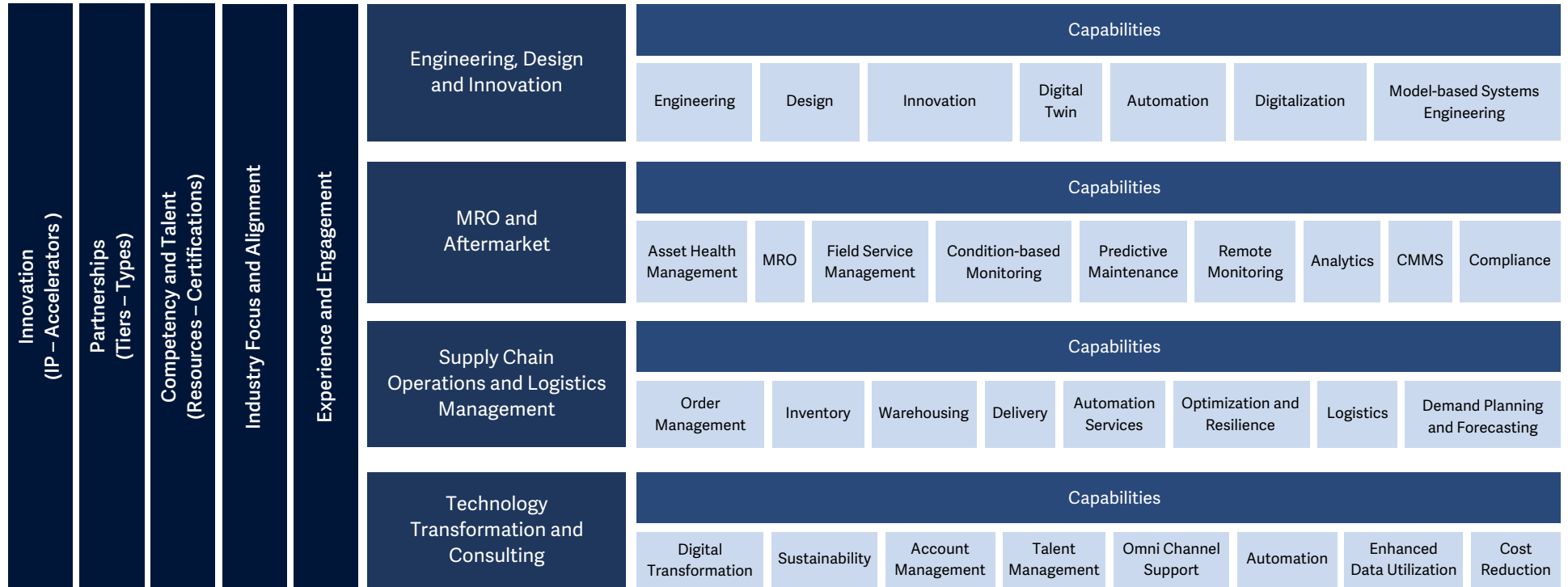
This study aims to understand the importance of A&D services and solutions while assessing providers' capabilities in this rapidly evolving space. The ongoing geopolitical tensions and emerging threats necessitate continuous investments in defense capabilities to ensure preparedness against potential conflicts. Countries invest heavily in modernizing their military forces, driving demand for innovative A&D solutions.



# What are **Essential Components** of Aerospace and Defense?



## Blueprint\* – Aerospace and Defense



\*Non-exhaustive



This study focuses on key trends and provider capabilities that **enable digital transformation in the A&D industry.**

Simplified Illustration Source: ISG 2026

### Overall Service Provider Ecosystem

**Engineering, Design and Innovation**

**Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) and Aftermarket**

**Supply Chain Operations and Logistics Management**

**Technology Transformation and Consulting**

### Midsize and Specialists IT Services Providers

**Aerospace and Defense Services**

### Definition

The ISG Provider Lens® Aerospace and Defense Services and Solutions 2026 study offers the following to business and IT decision-makers:

- Transparency on the strengths and weaknesses of relevant providers
- A differentiated positioning of providers by segments based on their competitive strengths and portfolio attractiveness
- Focus on different markets, including the U.S. and Europe

Our study serves as an important decision-making basis for positioning, key relationships and go-to-market considerations. ISG advisors and enterprise clients also use information from these reports to evaluate their current vendor relationships and potential engagements.

**Large IT services providers** are those with revenues exceeding \$2 billion. They cater to multiple verticals, often spreading their resources across a broad range of industries. They primarily focus on serving large enterprises, often engaging in large transformation projects that require strong



expertise, extensive resources and the ability to manage complex, enterprisewide innovations. Their robust industry experience, broad service capabilities and strategic partnerships with technology giants position them as key players in the global digital services landscape.

### **Midsized and specialist IT service providers**

**Midsized providers** generate less than \$2 billion in revenue and typically specialize in 3-4 verticals where they hold strong capabilities and significant revenue share. These providers adopt an agile and flexible approach, making them well-suited to serve both large enterprises and midmarket clients with tailored, industry-specific solutions. They also have strong inherent capabilities and heritage in digital engineering services. This combination of domain expertise, flexibility and a strong focus on innovation positions them as effective partners for businesses seeking to implement cutting-edge technologies with a faster, more agile approach.

**Specialists** are service providers uniquely positioned due to their niche capabilities that are either strongly embedded in specific verticals (for example, healthcare, financial services) or concentrated on specialized service areas such as AI and analytics. Typically, these providers focus intensely on 2-3 verticals where they hold a significant market share and expertise, allowing them to deliver highly tailored and innovative solutions. Specialists leverage their agility and flexibility to serve both large and midmarket enterprises. Their approach emphasizes solution-based problem-solving, making them highly responsive to the specific needs of their clients.



### Definition

Accelerated digital integration and advanced manufacturing techniques mark A&D engineering, design and innovation services in 2026. The widespread adoption of model-based definitions and digital twins is transforming design and testing processes, enabling faster, more accurate development cycles. Hybrid manufacturing approaches, combining additive manufacturing with precision machining, are increasingly used to meet stringent performance and certification requirements.

Rising defense budgets and compliance and sustainability regulatory demands propel innovation, driving investment in lightweight materials, eco-friendly propulsion and AI-enabled autonomous systems. Enhanced digital threads link the entire product lifecycle, fostering collaboration and reducing time-to-market. Cybersecurity and immersive technologies such as augmented reality are becoming integral to design, training and operational readiness, supporting rapid deployment and mission-critical capabilities.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Demonstrate experience in **offering engineering, design and innovation services** and solutions for OEM clients in the A&D industry
2. Showcase **successful engineering, design and innovation-related engagements** with at least three A&D companies
3. Have **at least three** of the following in the areas of engineering, design and innovation
  - Experience in **avionics/aviation-specific projects**
  - Proven **deployment of IoT** in aerospace systems
  - **Compliance with industry standards** and certifications
  - **Expertise in network** and communication protocols
  - Expertise in **using AI and ML** for engineering, design and innovation
  - Have **high-availability systems** for critical operations
  - Expertise in **zero trust architecture**
  - Expertise in **developing high-fidelity simulations**
  - Proven **integration of VR and AR** technologies into training modules
  - Track record of **working with industry-leading A&D companies**
  - Expertise in **MES software**
4. Demonstrate strong **partnerships with AI research organizations** or labs, industry associations, regulatory bodies, technology firms and start-ups specializing in the A&D industry
5. Offer **referenceable A&D use cases** for various services and solutions across the value chain





## Maintenance, Repairs and Overhauls (MRO) and Aftermarket

### Definition

The A&D MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) market in 2026 is marked by robust growth driven by aging fleets, increased air travel demand and rapid technological advancements. Key trends include widespread AI adoption and predictive analytics for enhanced maintenance planning and minimized aircraft downtime. Digitalization and automation streamline workflows, improving operational efficiency and asset reliability while controlling lifecycle costs.

Geographically, Europe is expected to witness the fastest MRO market growth due to regulatory harmonization and increased cross-border collaborations. North America remains a significant market owing to a large, aging fleet and strong defense spending. Sustainability and cost optimization are prioritized, prompting MRO providers to innovate with advanced materials and aftermarket services. Challenges such as workforce skill shortages and supply chain risks encourage investments in training and digital supply networks.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Demonstrate **experience in offering MRO and aftermarket services** and solutions for OEM clients in the A&D industry
2. Showcase **successful MRO and aftermarket-related engagements** with at least three A&D companies
3. Have at least three of the following capabilities in areas related to MRO and aftermarket:
  - Expertise in **predictive analytics**
  - Expertise in **condition-based monitoring**
  - Experience in **asset lifecycle management**
  - Expertise in **ERP system implementation**
4. Demonstrate **strong partnerships with AI research organizations or labs**, industry associations, regulatory bodies, technology firms and start-ups specializing in the A&D industry
5. Offer **referenceable A&D use cases** for various services and solutions across the value chain
  - Proven **deployment of IIoT, digital twin and additive manufacturing** solutions
  - Proactive maintenance and **rapid deployment capabilities**
  - **Integration** with live, virtual and constructive (LVC) **training systems**
  - Expertise in parts management



### Definition

In 2026, A&D supply chain and logistics management will be defined by resilience and digital transformation. The industry faces ongoing challenges due to material shortage, geopolitical risks and demand for faster production rates. Companies will focus on diversifying suppliers, adopting advanced digital tools such as AI and analytics for supply chain visibility and strengthening local and multicountry manufacturing footprints to mitigate disruptions. Enhanced cybersecurity measures will protect sensitive data throughout the supply chain. Sustainability initiatives and regulatory compliance will shape sourcing strategies, emphasizing energy efficiency and waste reduction.

Supply chain agility will be essential to meet accelerating production rates, especially for defense contracts requiring rapid capability deployment. This includes lean manufacturing integration and supplier development programs aimed at strengthening lower tier supply bases.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Experience in supply chain operations and logistics management** services and solutions for OEMs in the A&D industry
- Successful supply chain operations and logistics management-related engagements** with at least three A&D companies
- Have at least three of the following capabilities in the areas of supply chain operations and logistics management:
  - Proven **deployment of IIoT, digital twin and additive manufacturing solutions**
  - Expertise in geographic information systems (GIS) implementation
  - Proven **deployment of AI and ML** in autonomous systems
  - Ability to **secure supply chain networks from cyber threats**
  - Expertise in **warehouse management**
  - Have logistics and transportation **management systems**
  - Expertise in **purchasing processes**
  - Traceability systems
  - Expertise in scheduling
  - Proactive **order management** capabilities
  - Expertise in **control tower operations**
  - Expertise in **demand planning**
  - Expertise in third-party risk management
  - Proven solutions for supply chain and procurement optimization
  - Expertise in supply chain segmentation
- Strong partnerships with AI research organizations**, industry associations, regulatory bodies, technology firms and start-ups within the A&D industry
- Offer **referenceable A&D use cases** for various services and solutions across the value chain



### Definition

Advancements in AI, automation and digital integration drive technology transformation in the A&D industry. AI-powered systems enhance defense capabilities through autonomous platforms, predictive maintenance and cybersecurity, enabling rapid mission planning and threat response. Immersive technologies such as VR and AR improve training efficiency, while digital twins and model-based definitions streamline design and production processes. Additive manufacturing is expanding into production, using lightweight, complex components that boost performance and reduce costs.

A&D consulting services focus on guiding enterprises through digital transformation and innovation adoption. Key areas include integrating advanced materials, optimizing supply chains with digital tools and ensuring compliance with evolving standards such as ITAR and AS9100. The shift toward rapid capability deployment and sustainable solutions demands strategic advisory to align technology investment with market opportunities and regulatory requirements.

### Eligibility Criteria

1. Experience in **offering technology transformation and consulting services** and solutions for OEM clients in the A&D industry
  - Experience in **energy efficiency and carbon footprint tracking**
  - Expertise in **airline or fleet/ route optimization** software
  - Expertise in **ERP systems**
  - Have a 24 by 7 security operations center (SOC) and network operations center (NOC)
2. Demonstrate **successful technology transformation and consulting services-related engagements** with at least three A&D companies
3. Have at least three of the following capabilities in the areas of technology transformation and consulting:
  - Support for **secure and encrypted data exchange**
  - Expertise in **disaster recovery systems**
  - Expertise in **connected aircraft** and related solutions
4. Demonstrate **strong partnerships with AI research organizations** or labs, industry associations, regulatory bodies, technology firms and start-ups specializing in the A&D industry.
5. Offer **referenceable A&D use cases** for various services and solutions across the value chain



## Quadrants by Regions

As a part of this ISG Provider Lens quadrant study, we are introducing the following four quadrants in the Aerospace and Defense Services and Solutions 2026 report for the overall service provider ecosystem and one quadrant for midsize and specialist IT services providers:

Quadrant	U.S.	Europe	Global
<b>Overall Service Provider Ecosystem</b>			
Engineering, Design and Innovation	✓	✓	
Maintenance, Repairs and Overhaul (MRO) and Aftermarket	✓	✓	
Supply Chain Operations and Logistics Management	✓	✓	
Technology Transformation and Consulting	✓	✓	
<b>Midsize and Specialists IT Services Providers</b>			
Aerospace and Defense Services			✓



## ISG's Aerospace and Defense Framework

### Key characteristics of the proprietary framework:

- Encapsulates what enterprises are doing across the A&D services and solutions market and helps connect them to digital solutions
- Represents the entire supply and demand value chain within the market
- Inner tiles represent themes of enterprise objectives
- Outer tiles represent initiatives
- Behind each outer tile is a specific set of capabilities with unique market-leading providers and solutions



The research phase falls in the period between January and March 2026, during which survey, evaluation, analysis and validation will take place. The results will be presented to the media in May 2026.

Milestones	Beginning	End
Survey Launch	December 10th, 2025	
Survey Phase	December 11th, 2025	January 16th, 2026
Sneak Preview	March 2026	
Press Release & Publication	May 2026	

Please refer to the [ISG Provider Lens® 2026](#) research agenda to view and download the list of other studies conducted by ISG Provider Lens.

Access to Online Portal

You can view/download the questionnaire from [here](#) using the credentials you have already created or refer to instructions provided in the invitation email to generate a new password. We look forward to your participation!

Buyers Guide

ISG Software Research, formerly “Ventana Research,” offers market insights by evaluating technology providers and products through its Buyers Guides. The findings are drawn from the research-based analysis of product and customer experience categories, ranking and rating software providers and products to help facilitate informed decision-making and selection processes for technology.

In the course of the Aerospace and Defense IPL launch, we want to take advantage of the opportunity to draw your attention to related research and insights that ISG Research will publish in 2026. For more information, refer to the [Buyers Guide research schedule](#).

Research Production Disclaimer:

ISG collects data for the purposes of writing research and creating provider/vendor profiles. The profiles and supporting data are used by ISG advisors to make recommendations and inform their clients of the experience and qualifications of any applicable provider/vendor for outsourcing the work identified by clients. This data is collected as part of the ISG FutureSource™ process and the Candidate Provider Qualification (CPQ) process. ISG may choose to only utilize this collected data pertaining to certain countries or regions for the education and purposes of its advisors and not produce ISG Provider Lens® reports. These decisions will be made based on the level and completeness of the information received directly from providers/vendors and the availability of experienced analysts for those countries or regions. Submitted information may also be used for individual research projects or for briefing notes that will be written by the lead analysts.



### ISG Star of Excellence™ – Call for nominations

The Star of Excellence™ is an independent recognition of excellent service delivery based on the concept of “Voice of the Customer.”

The Star of Excellence™ is a program, designed by ISG, to collect client feedback about service providers’ success in demonstrating the highest standards of client service excellence and customer centricity.

The global survey is all about services that are associated with IPL studies. In consequence, all ISG Analysts will be continuously provided with information on the customer experience of all relevant service providers. This information comes on top of existing first-hand advisor feedback that IPL leverages in context of its practitioner-led consulting approach.

Providers are invited to [nominate](#) their clients to participate. Once the nomination has been submitted, ISG sends out a mail confirmation to both sides. It is self-evident that ISG anonymizes all customer data and does not share it with third parties.

It is our vision that the Star of Excellence™ will be recognized as the leading industry recognition for client service excellence and serve as the benchmark for measuring client sentiments.

To ensure your selected clients complete the feedback for your nominated engagement please use the Client nomination section on the Star of Excellence™ [website](#).

We have set up an email where you can direct any questions or provide comments. This email will be checked daily, please allow up to 24 hours for a reply.

Here is the email address:

[star@cx.isg-one.com](mailto:star@cx.isg-one.com)



**ISG Star of Excellence**



The ISG Provider Lens® 2026 – Aerospace and Defense Services and Solutions research study analyzes the relevant software vendors/ service providers in the global market, based on a multi-phased research and analysis process, and positions these providers based on the ISG Research methodology.

**Study Sponsor:**

Iain Fisher

**Lead Analysts:**

Harish B and Swadhin Pradhan

**Research Analyst:**

Arjun Das

**Data Analyst:**

Sumit Kumar

**Project Manager:**

Shailendra More

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The research and analysis presented in this study will include data from the ISG Provider Lens® program, ongoing ISG Research programs, interviews with ISG advisors, briefings with service providers and analysis of publicly available market information from multiple sources. ISG recognizes the time lapse and possible market developments between research and publishing, in terms of mergers and acquisitions, and acknowledges that those changes will not reflect in the reports for this study.

All revenue references are in U.S. dollars (\$US) unless noted.





## Contacts For This Study

### Study Sponsor



Iain  
Fisher

**Study Sponsor –  
Global**



Shailendra  
More

**Project Manager –  
Global**



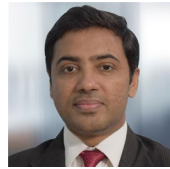
Harish B

**Lead Analyst –  
Europe**



Swadhin  
Pradhan

**Lead Analyst –  
U.S.**



Arjun  
Das

**Research  
Analyst**



Sumit  
Kumar

**Data  
Analyst**



### ISG Provider Lens® Advisors Involvement Program

ISG Provider Lens® offers market assessments incorporating practitioner insights, reflecting regional focus and independent research. ISG ensures advisor involvement in each study to cover the appropriate market details aligned to the respective service lines/technology trends, service provider presence and enterprise context.

In each region, ISG has expert thought leaders and respected advisors who know the provider portfolios and offerings as well as enterprise requirements and market trends. On average, three advisors participate as part of each study's quality and consistency review team (QCRT). The QCRT ensures each study reflects ISG advisors' experience in the field, which complements the primary and secondary research the analysts conduct. ISG advisors participate in each study as part of the QCRT group and contribute at different levels depending on their availability and expertise.

The QCRT advisors:

- Help define and validate quadrants and questionnaires,
- Advise on service provider inclusion, participate in briefing calls,
- Give their perspectives on service provider ratings and review report drafts.

## ISG Advisors to this study



Matteo  
Gallina

**Digital Engineering  
Solutions Lead  
Americas**



Dorotea  
Baljević

**Director –  
Engineering Services**



John  
Lytle

**Director  
Manufacturing**



Rajeev  
Chatrath

**Principal Consultant –  
Engineering Services**



Ryan  
Hamze

**Director –  
Manufacturing**



Howard  
Davies

**Partner – Research  
Management**



## Invited Companies

**If your company is listed on this page or you feel your company should be listed, please contact ISG to ensure we have the correct contact person(s) to actively participate in this research.**

Accenture	Capgemini	Cyient	FPT Software
ACL Digital	Capita Plc	Datamatics Global Services	Fujitsu
AFRY	Caresoft Global	Delaware Digital	General Dynamics IT
Akkodis	Cenit AG	Deloitte	Genpact
All4One	Centum Electronics	DXC Technology	GlobalLogic
Altair Engineering, Inc.	Ceva Logistics B.V.	Econocom Group SE	Globant
Altimetrik	CGI	EDAG	GMV Sistemas
Altran	CI&T	eInfochips	Happiest Minds
Ammentum	ClearStar, Inc.	Encora	HARMAN DTS
amplimind	Coforge	Endava	HCLTech
Ascendion	Cognisys	Engineering Industries eXcellence	Hexaware
Atos	Cognitus Consulting	Eviden (an Atos Business)	Hitachi Digital Services
Axiscades	Cognizant	EXL Service	IBM
Bell Techlogix	Combitech (SAAB AB)	Expleo	Indra Sistemas, S.A.
Bertrandt	Computacenter	EY	Infosys
Birlasoft	Corpello Global Ltd	FORCAM	Innominds



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Innova Solutions

Inspirage

Intellias

ITC Infotech

JIT Team

Kairos

Kongsberg IT

KPMG

Kuhne & Nagel

Kyndryl

LeverX

LTIMindtree

LTTS

Mastek

MCS Group

MHP

Microland

Movate

Mphasis

Nagarro

NEC

Ness Digital

N-iX

NTT DATA

Orange Business Services

Perficient

Persistent Systems

Publicis Sapient

PwC

Qualitest

Quest Global

Randstad Digital

Robosoft Technologies

Safran Engineering Services

SAIC

Semcon AB

Serco

Siemens Advanta

SII

Sofftek

Sopra Steria

Stefanini

Sutherland

Synoptek

Tata Elxsi

Tata Technologies

TCS

Tech Mahindra

Thales S.A.

Thoughtworks

Unisys

UST

Valcon

Virtusa

Vivicta

VVDN Technologies

Wipro

Xebia

Xoriant

Zensar

Zheulke



### Provider Lens®

The ISG Provider Lens® Quadrant research series is the only service provider evaluation of its kind to combine empirical, data-driven research and market analysis with the real-world experience and observations of ISG's global advisory team. Enterprises will find a wealth of detailed data and market analysis to help guide their selection of appropriate sourcing partners, while ISG advisors use the reports to validate their own market knowledge and make recommendations to ISG's enterprise clients. The research currently covers providers offering their services across multiple geographies globally.

For more information about ISG Provider Lens® research, please visit this [webpage](#).

### Research™

ISG Research™ provides subscription research, advisory consulting and executive event services focused on market trends and disruptive technologies driving change in business computing. ISG Research™ delivers guidance that helps businesses accelerate growth and create more value.

ISG offers research specifically about providers to state and local governments (including counties, cities) as well as higher education institutions. Visit: [Public Sector](#).

For more information about ISG Research™ subscriptions, please email [contact@isg-one.com](mailto:contact@isg-one.com), call +1.203.454.3900, or visit [research.isg-one.com](https://research.isg-one.com).

### 

ISG (Nasdaq: III) is a global AI-centered technology research and advisory firm. A trusted partner to more than 900 clients, including 75 of the world's top 100 enterprises, ISG is a long-time leader in technology and business services sourcing that is now at the forefront of leveraging AI to help organizations achieve operational excellence and faster growth.

The firm, founded in 2006, is known for its proprietary market data, in-depth knowledge of provider ecosystems, and the expertise of its 1,600 professionals worldwide working together to help clients maximize the value of their technology investments.

For more information, visit [isg-one.com](https://isg-one.com).





**JANUARY, 2026**

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