M&A CYCLE SEEMS TO FINALLY BE SUBSIDING IN COUNT IF NOT VALUE

Q4 2018 recorded another quarter-over-quarter decline in volume, although a near-record quarterly sum of $172 billion implies the cycle is far from done.

Median M&A transaction size hit a new high in Q4 2018 of $66.5 million.

SaaS multiples stay lofty, still contributing to consolidation primarily centered within software.

IT DILIGENCE IS BECOMING AN IMPERATIVE FOR ALL TRANSACTIONS

Business use cases for software tools have entered a second-generation cycle, as multiple sectors now niche tools being built out.

Incumbents looking to acquire innovators coupled with vertical integration remain key drivers of the M&A cycle.

Software product code is a key priority element for buyers and sellers of technology companies.

PE DEAL VALUE FINISHES YEAR STRONG AT CLOSE TO $60 BILLION IN Q4 ALONE

PE activity hit a new high percentage of all volume in Q4, at 39.5 percent.

Financial and strategic sponsors completed a combined 32 acquisitions of public companies, resulting in the fewest delistings since 2014.

Consistent popularity of add-ons signifies strategy and sector maturation.