Evolution Strategy Partners Named to Axial's 2026 Top 20 Independent Sponsors List for the Third Consecutive Year

Evolution Strategy Partners named to Axial's 2026 Top 20 Independent Sponsors list for the third consecutive year in the lower middle market.

AUSTIN, TX, UNITED STATES, September 14, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Evolution Strategy Partners has been named to Axial's 2026 Top 20 Independent Sponsors list, marking the third consecutive year the firm has earned this distinction. Appearing on this list three years running places Evolution Strategy Partners among a small group of firms that have sustained this level of activity and performance year over year, a reflection of consistent deal execution and long-term relationships with sellers, capital partners, and portfolio companies alike.

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>
> *Stenning Schueppert*

Axial's annual ranking recognizes the most active and effective independent sponsors operating on its platform, the leading network connecting dealmakers in the lower middle market. Firms are evaluated on total closed transactions, deals sourced and closed through Axial, and buyer effectiveness, a measure of how consistently a firm can move deals forward when sellers have competing options on the table. Independent sponsors have become one of the fastest growing buyer groups in the lower middle market, valued by business owners for the flexibility, hands-on partnership, and tailored deal structures they bring to each transaction.

“Three years on this list tells you something about consistency, not just a single good year. It reflects the discipline our team brings to every deal, the trust our portfolio and industry partners place in us, and a shared belief that how you build a partnership matters as much as the transaction itself,” stated Stenning Schueppert, Managing Partner. “This recognition belongs to everyone who has worked alongside us, and we do not take that for granted.”

Evolution Strategy Partners extends its sincere thanks to the full Evolution team, whose commitment and hard work make results like this possible, and to the portfolio companies and industry partners whose collaboration and trust continue to drive the firm's growth. This achievement reflects a shared effort, not a solo one.

About Evolution Strategy Partners
Evolution Strategy Partners is a differentiated private equity firm with a unique approach to conducting business: it considers its portfolio companies true partners, not purely investments. Evolution values and respects the people with whom it works, believing its value-added involvement is only just beginning at the time a transaction closes. The firm stays engaged and empowers company leaders to accelerate the true potential of their businesses. Evolution's primary focus is on entrepreneur-owned companies, but it remains flexible to explore other opportunities where knowledge and interests are aligned. Evolution targets industrial and commercial service businesses with revenues under $75 million. It selects only a handful of new platform opportunities to pursue each year but has invested over $175 million in the last five years alone. For more information on Evolution Strategy Partners, please visit www.evolutionstrategy.com.

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