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Sixteenth Annual M&A Research Centre Outlook for M&A in 2026

PANEL DISCUSSION

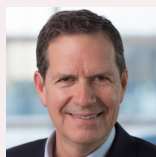
2 February 2026



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INTRODUCTION



Professor Scott Moeller
Founder, M&A Research Centre
Bayes Business School

Scott Moeller is the founder of the M&A Research Centre at Bayes Business School where he is also Professor in the Practice of Finance. Scott is widely published as an author or co-author, including his most recent book published in 2023, 'The Deal Paradox: Mergers and Acquisitions Success in the Age of Digital Transformation', that highlights the growing role of AI in the M&A deal process.

Prior to his teaching and research, Scott was at Deutsche Bank in London for six years in several senior banking positions. He worked first at Booz Allen & Hamilton management consultants for over five years and then at Morgan Stanley for over 12 years in New York, Japan and then as co-manager of Morgan Stanley in Germany.

Scott is a graduate of Yale College (BA with honours), the Yale Graduate School (MA) and the Yale School of Management (MBA).

PANELLISTS



Ian Hart
Chair, M&A Research Centre
Advisory Board & Co-Chairman
of UK Investment Banking (UBS)

Ian is the Chair of the Advisory Board of the M&A Research Centre at Bayes Business School. He started his career in banking in 1990 at SG Warburg before moving to Citi / Schroders for 13 years, where he held several management roles including Co-Head of European M&A. Ian then spent seven years at Morgan Stanley before rejoining UBS (which had acquired Warburg) in 2016.

He returned to UBS in 2024 after three years as Director General of the UK Takeover Panel, where he was responsible for oversight of the Panel's transaction case-work, development of Panel policy and practice as well as leading the management of the organisation.

Ian is a qualified Chartered Accountant and has a first-class degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Oxford University.



Liz Claydon
Global Head of Deal Advisory
(KPMG)

Liz is Global Head of Deal Advisory and leads the Global Life Sciences business at KPMG; she is passionate about supporting clients to achieve their growth aspirations and providing independent challenge along the way. Liz has held a number of senior roles at KPMG including leading the UK Deal Advisory Team, a member of the Executive Committee for over four years, UK Vice Chair, UK sector head for the Life Sciences practice and Global Lead Partner for GSK, where she led the global deals relationship for over 10 years. She has led many large multi-disciplinary projects across many sectors over the past 20 years especially in the Consumer & Pharma sectors working with many of the largest global and UK clients including Unilever, Diageo, Premier Foods, GSK as well as many private equity houses.

Liz co-chairs the Senior Business Women's Network and is dedicated to championing gender equity and empowering women across the business landscape acting as a dedicated leader, mentor and advocate for inclusion, diversity and equality. She sits on Bayes Business School's M&A Research Centre (MARC) Advisory Board.

TIMINGS

18:00	Registration
18:30	Event begins: welcome from the Founder of the M&A Research Centre at Bayes
18:35	Introduction from the Chair and predictions from the panellists
19:15	Floor debate (questions from the audience)
19:30	Closing remarks, followed by drinks
20:30	Event end

Mergers & Acquisitions Research Centre (MARC)

The M&A Research Centre (MARC), founded in 2008, is a breakthrough – the first time a major business school has established a focused centre for research into the global M&A industry. With its proximity to the City of London, MARC is perfectly placed to maintain close contacts with M&A bankers, lawyers, consultants, accountants and other key players. MARC is one of over 20 research centres at Bayes. A number of corporations, regulators, professional services firms, exchanges and universities have been using MARC for swift access to the latest research and practical ideas. In recognition of its research excellence and links to the community, MARC was chosen by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) to be the 'Spotlight' feature in its Research/Scholarship Resource Centre.

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PANELLISTS



Professor Michel Driessen
Director, M&A Research Centre
Bayes Business School

Michel Driessen is the director of the M&A Research Centre at Bayes Business School where he is also Professor in the Practice of Finance and Deputy Chair of the M&A Research Centre Advisory Board. In addition, Michel is the Chairman of Queen's Tower Advisory, an independent deal advisory firm focused on private capital and a trustee at several art institutions. Michel is co-author of several business books: 'Why Deals Fail and How to Rescue Them' in 2016 and 'The Deal Paradox: Mergers and Acquisitions Success in the Age of Digital Transformation' in 2023. In February 2026, he will publish his third business book 'Green Gold: How sustainability creates deal value'. Prior to his teaching and research, Michel was a Senior Partner at the Strategy and Transactions Group at EY UKI and has held senior executive positions at Accenture, Visa and Rabobank.

Michel is a graduate of Radboud University Nijmegen (MA) and Bradford School of Management (MBA with distinction).



John West
Global Commentary Editor
(Mergermarket)

John West is Global Commentary Editor at Mergermarket, where he leads the group's opinion and feature output and authors *Continental Drift*, a weekly column exploring the macroeconomic, political, and policy forces shaping the M&A landscape across the US and Europe.

A 20-year financial journalism veteran and an editor for more than a decade, John has a deep understanding of global dealmaking dynamics and a passion for delivering insight that helps decision makers navigate complexity. John regularly speaks at industry events and sits on Bayes Business School's M&A Research Centre (MARC) Advisory Board.



Todd Partridge
Chief Marketing Officer
(SS&C Intralinks)

Todd Partridge is the Chief Marketing Officer at SS&C Intralinks, where he leads global strategy and operations across brand, demand generation, product marketing, and communications.

Todd's career spans technology, digital media, and global marketing strategy for enterprise software and B2B SaaS companies. He led the technology strategy for a pioneering digital agency who brought brands such as M&M Mars and De Beers to the web for the first time. At OpenText, Todd was General Manager of the Legal Solutions business which delivered content and conflict management software for global law firms and corporate legal departments. For the past decade Todd has led the strategy and focus of FinTech solutions facilitating strategic dealmaking activity and fund management solutions for Private Equity firms. He sits on Bayes Business School's M&A Research Centre (MARC) Advisory Board.

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