WAVESTONE

2026

# UK
# CYBERSECURITY STARTUP RADAR

# In 2026, the UK accelerates in the creation of cyber startups but struggles to establish itself as a scale-up ecosystem

**225** (+45)
**Startups**

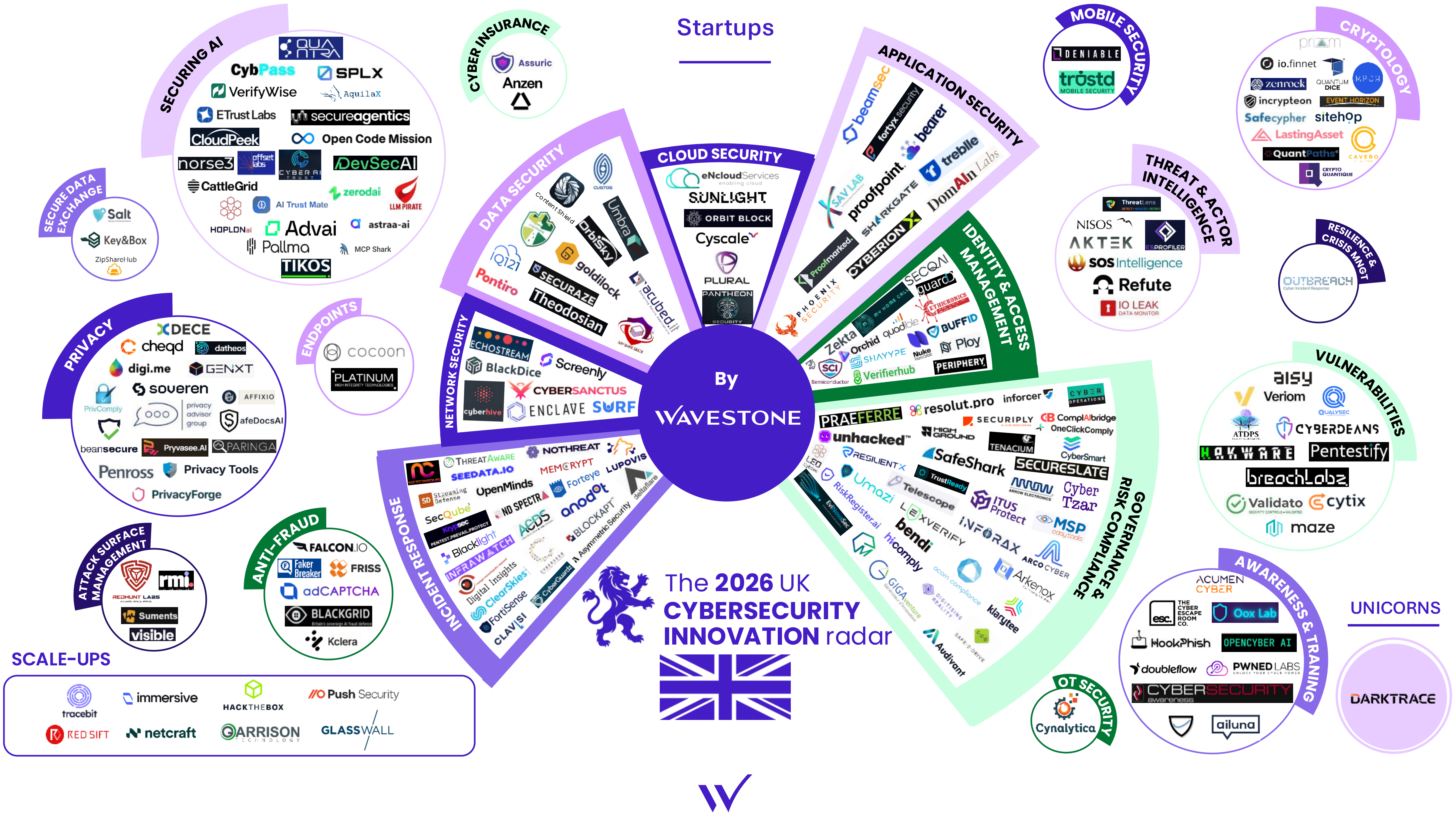
**235** (+55)
**Players**

**9**
**Scale-ups in the UK***

**1** (+1)
**Unicorn**

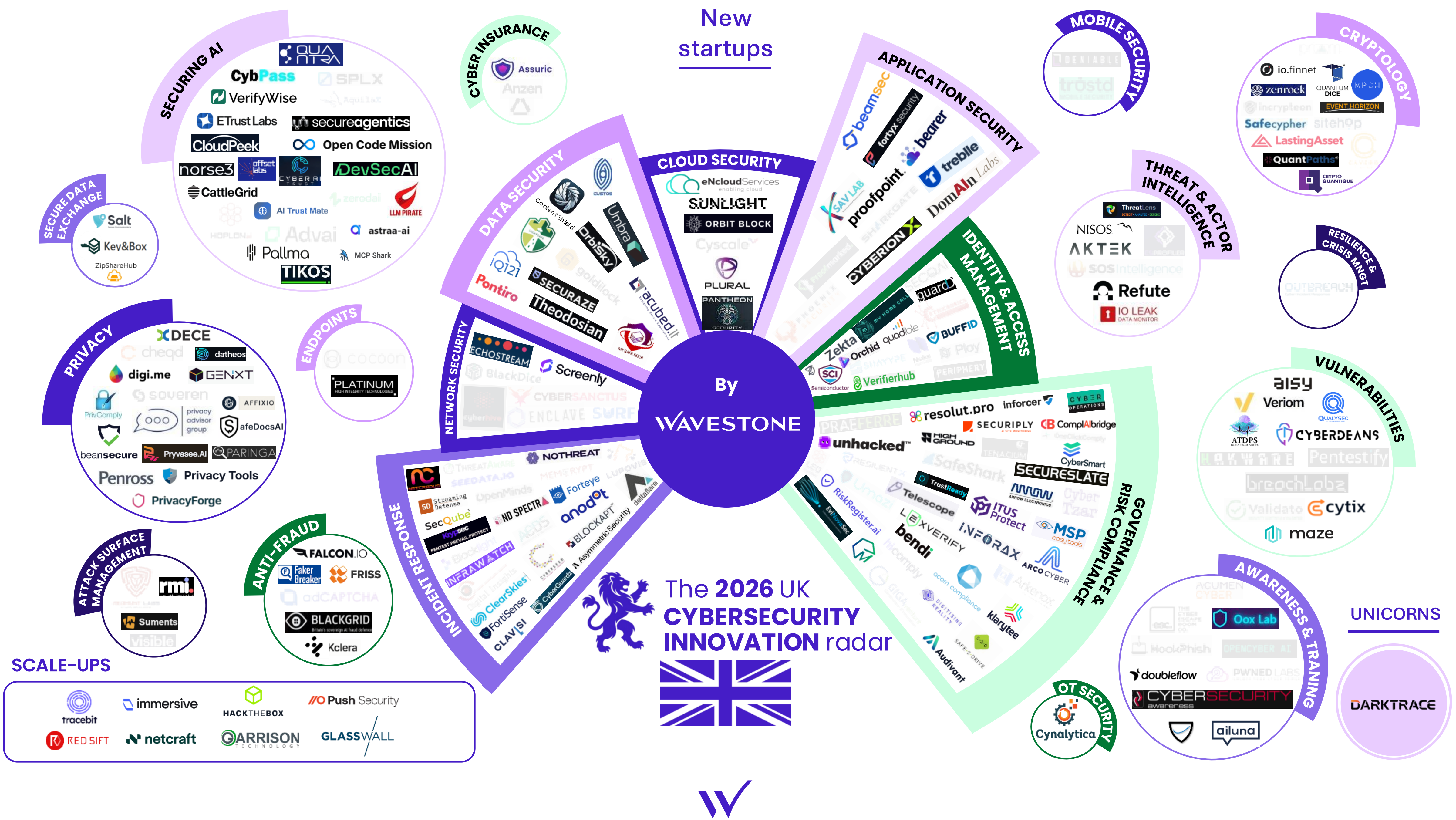
**+144**
**New startups in 2026**

** according to publicly available data*


Startups
By WAVESTONE
The 2026 UK CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION radar
SECURING AI
QUANTRA
CybPass
SPLX
VerifyWise
AquilaX
ETrust Labs
secureagentics
CloudPeek
Open Code Mission
norse3
offset labs
CYBER AI TRUST
DevSecAI
CattleGrid
zerodai
AI Trust Mate
LLM PIRATE
HOPLONai
Advai
astraa-ai
Pallma
MCP Shark
TIKOS
SECURE DATA EXCHANGE
Salt
Key&Box
ZipShareHub
PRIVACY
DECE
cheqd
datheos
digi.me
GENXT
PrivComply
soveren
AFFIXIO
privacy advisor group
SafeDocsAI
beansecure
Pryvasee.AI
PARINGA
Penross
Privacy Tools
PrivacyForge
ENDPOINTS
cocoon
PLATINUM
ATTACK SURFACE MANAGEMENT
rmi
REDHUNT LABS
Suments
visible
ANTI-FRAUD
FALCON.IO
Faker Breaker
FRISS
adCAPTCHA
BLACKGRID
Kclera
CYBER INSURANCE
Assuric
Anzen
DATA SECURITY
CUSTOS
Content Shield
Umbra
OrbiSky
iQ121
goldilock
Pontiro
SECURAZE
acubed.it
Theodosian
MY SAFE DOCS
CLOUD SECURITY
eNcloudServices
SUNLIGHT
ORBIT BLOCK
Cyscale
PLURAL
PANTHEON SECURITY
NETWORK SECURITY
ECHOSTREAM
BlackDice
Screenly
cyberhive
CYBERSANCTUS
ENCLAVE
SURF
INCIDENT RESPONSE
THREATAWARE
NOTHREAT
SEEDATA.IO
MEMCRYPT
LUPOVIS
Streaming Defense
OpenMinds
Forteye
deltaflare
SecQube
ND SPECTR
anodot
Keysec
BLOCKAPT
Asymmetric Security
Blacklight
INFRAWATCH
Digital Insights
ClearSkies
CyberGuardz
FortiSense
CLAVISI
APPLICATION SECURITY
beamsec
fortyx security
bearer
treblle
SAV LAB
proofpoint
SHARKGATE
DomAIn Labs
Proofmarked
CYBERION
PHOENIX SECURITY
IDENTITY & ACCESS MANAGEMENT
SECQAI
guardo
ETHICRONICS
quadible
BUFFID
Zekta
Orchid
SHAYYPE
Nuke
Ploy
SCI Semiconductor
Verifierhub
PERIPHERY
GOVERNANCE RISK COMPLIANCE &
PRAEFERRE
resolut.pro
inforcer
CYBER OPERATIONS
SECURIPLY
ComplAIbridge
OneClickComply
HIGH GROUND
unhacked
TENACIUM
CyberSmart
RESILIENTX
SafeShark
SECURESLATE
Umazi
TrustReady
Telescope
ITUS Protect
Cyber Tzar
RiskRegister.ai
LEXVERIFY
MSP easytools
bendi
INFORAX
ARCO CYBER
hicomply
acorn compliance
Arkenox
GIGA venture
DIGITISING REALITY
klarytee
Audivant
SAFE 2 DRIVE
MOBILE SECURITY
DENIABLE
trustd MOBILE SECURITY
CRYPTOLOGY
prizm
io.finnet
QUANTUM DICE
MPCH
zenrock
incrypteon
EVENT HORIZON
Safecypher
sitehop
LastingAsset
CAVERO
QuantPaths
CRYPTO QUANTIQUE
THREAT & ACTOR INTELLIGENCE
ThreatLens
NISOS
AKTEK
ESPROFILER
SOS Intelligence
Refute
IO LEAK DATA MONITOR
CRISIS MNGT & RESILIENCE
OUTBREACH Cyber Incident Response
VULNERABILITIES
aisy
Veriom
QUALYSEC
ATDPS
CYBERDEANS
HAKWARE
Pentestify
breachLabz
Validato
cytix
maze
AWARENESS & TRAINING
ACUMEN CYBER
THE CYBER ESCAPE ROOM CO.
Oox Lab
HookPhish
OPENCYBER AI
doubleflow
PWNED LABS
CYBERSECURITY awareness
ailuna
OT SECURITY
Cynalytica
UNICORNS
DARKTRACE
SCALE-UPS
tracebit
immersive
HACKTHEBOX
Push Security
RED SIFT
netcraft
GARRISON TECHNOLOGY
GLASSWALL

# The 2026 UK CYBERSECURITY INNOVATION radar

By WAVESTONE



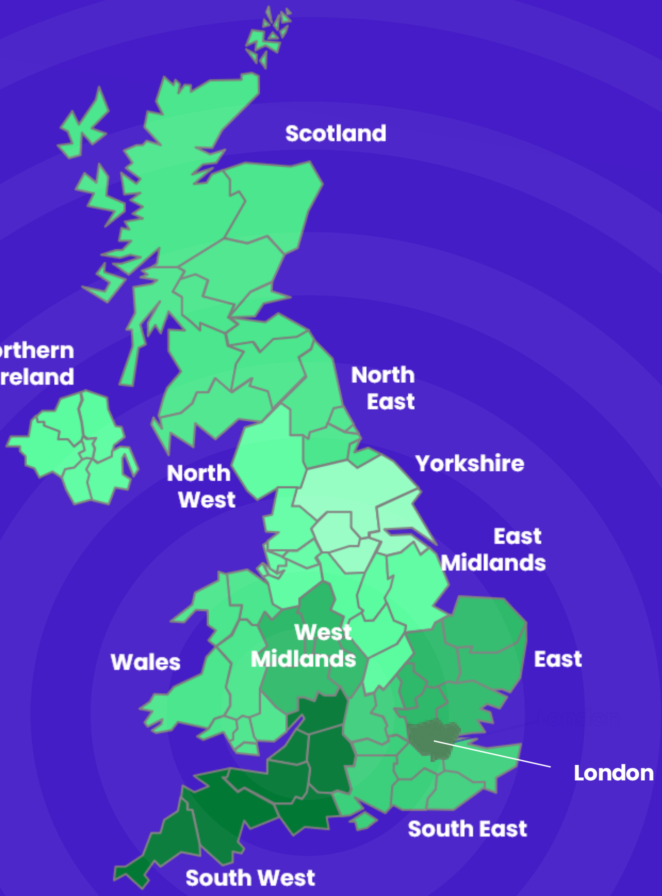
# London remains central as regional ecosystems continue to expand

**68%** of UK startups had fewer than 10 employees in 2026

VS

**52%** of UK startups in 2025

Analysis shows that the **employee headcount** for emerging cybersecurity startups is **falling on average year on year.**




Main locations for startup founding

**42%** of UK startups based regionally

**21** new startups identified in 2026, located in **London**

**13** in **2025**

**London** remains a major hub for **cybersecurity startups and scale-ups**. However, activity is consistently expanding across the UK, with regions such as the **South West** performing strongly in new startups included in the 2026 radar.

**Low concentration** — **High concentration**

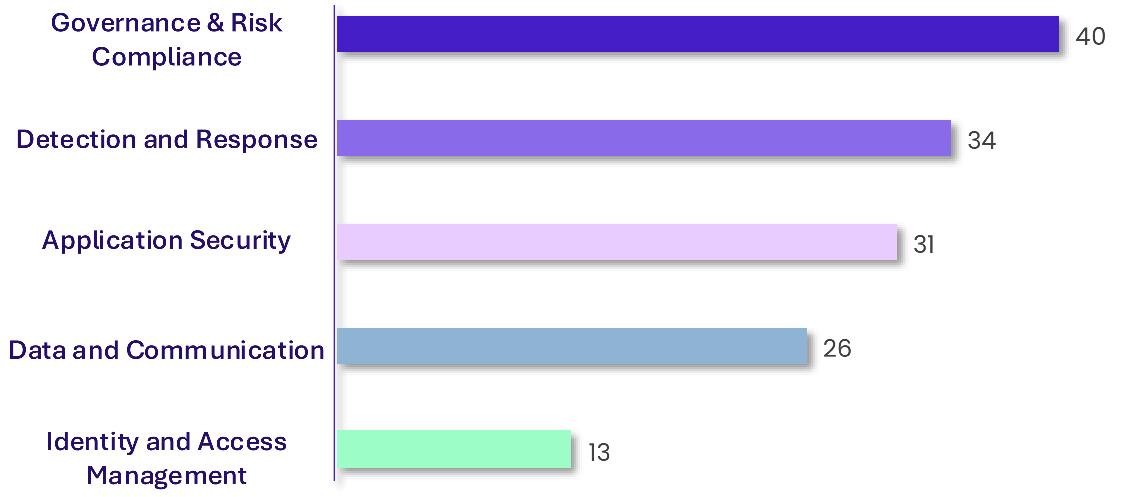
** 2026 radar consists of a substantially larger sample size as compared to 2025*

# A hyper-growing ecosystem: an unprecedented wave of new startups is crowding an already competitive market

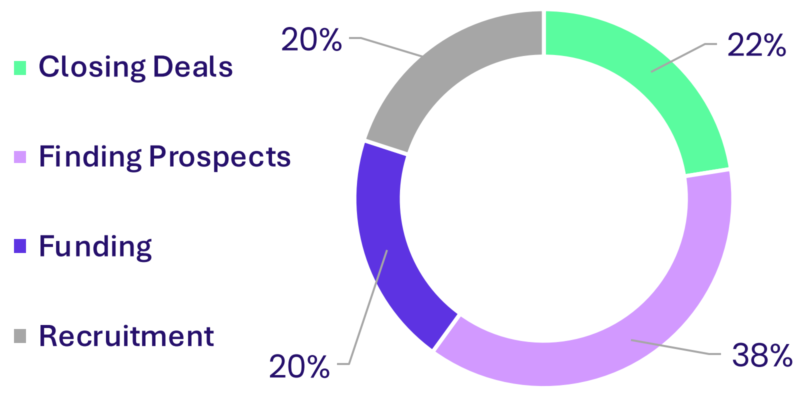
**144**
new startups identified in 2026

**Edition 2026**

## TOP 5 CATEGORIES OF STARTUPS IDENTIFIED IN 2026




## Biggest challenges facing UK startups*




* Insights based on responses from a focus group of 49 startups

**Continued issues for startups around market access and customer procurement.**

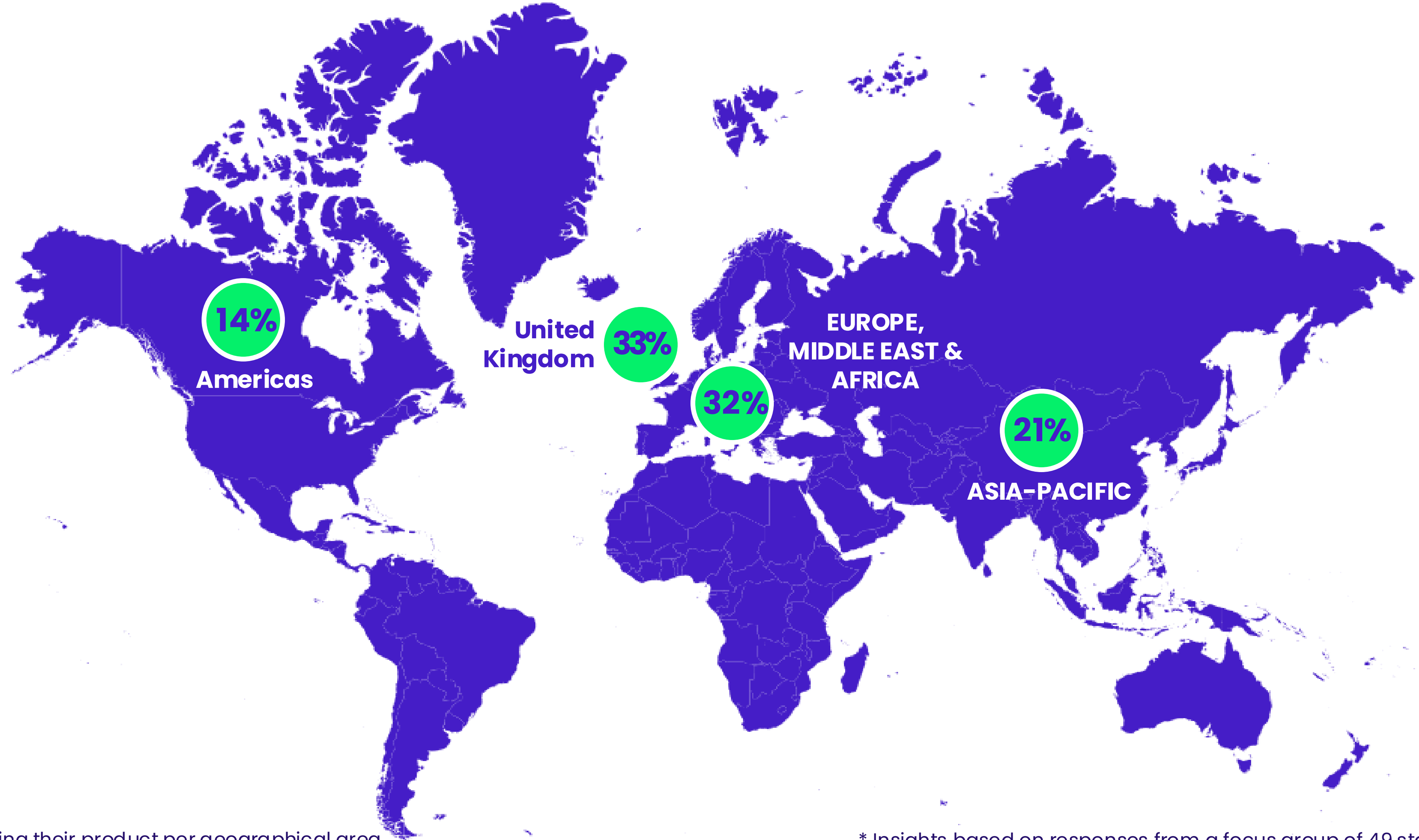
Finding prospects is the biggest hurdle for UK startups at about **38%.**
Market access and customer procurement remain an issue for start-ups, as cautious investors and tight hiring conditions leave many founders struggling to secure capital, pipeline, and the talent needed to scale.

# A majority of companies export their product, mainly in Europe

**67%**
export their product outside of the UK

**33%**
are selling exclusively to UK clients

"Data reflects the latest available primary sales market data at the time of analysis."




Number of companies selling their product per geographical area

* Insights based on responses from a focus group of 49 startups

# Innovation in focus

**11%** (+2% vs 2025)

Only a minority of the startups interviewed stated that their main inspiration for their startup came from improving an existing product

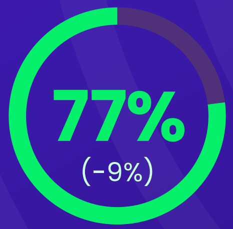
**81%** (+3% vs 2025)

The vast majority of firms stated that they aimed to address a gap in the market with their startup

Several founders also relayed personal experiences around cybercrime and its widespread effects enhancing their motivation to build their products.

## Certifications and qualifications

**Startups have at least one cybersecurity certification**




Despite a large influx of new startups, often too new to be certified, a large majority still hold at least one cybersecurity certification.

### Certifications


* Insights based on responses from a focus group of 49 startups

# The security of AI usage is growing rapidly, and its integration into security products continues to expand

**Cyber for AI**

**10%** of surveyed startups are securing the use of AI

**7%** in 2025

- Security of models and training phases
- Protection of environments and processed data
- Governance and compliance

**AI for cyber**

**62%** of companies use AI in their products to automate, accelerate, and extract more value out of cyber actions...

**30%** in 2025

- Threat detection and analysis
- Incident response orchestration
- Awareness campaigns optimization
- Fraud detection
- Data classification

**LLM models security**
SPLX, secureagentics, Pallma, norse3, LLM PIRATE, DevSecAI

**AI compliance**
VerifyWise, Advai, CybPass, Open Code Mission, AI Trust Mate

**Agentic Security**
ETrust Labs

**AI secure by design**
AquilaX, CloudPeek, offset labs

**Sensitive data detection**
CattleGrid, SPLX

**Data protection in AI**
HOPLONai, MCP Shark

* Insights based on responses from a focus group of 49 startups

# AI is present across the cybersecurity startup landscape

## Solutions reimagined by AI

Startups that accelerate
security solutions using AI

| | |
|---|---|
| AI-accelerated penetration testing | Pentestify, QUALYSEC |
| AI-accelerated resilience | AquilaX, Advai, SPLX |
| AI-accelerated third-party management | VerifyWise, RiskRegister.ai, HOPLONai |
| AI-accelerated SOCs | DARKTRACE, Blacklight |

## Deep tech solutions

Deep tech companies building
core technologies for demanding environments

| | |
|---|---|
| incrypteon, Safecypher, QUANTUM DICE, sitehop | Data encryption |
| DevSecAI, Open Code Mission, secureagentics, CYBER AI TRUST | Secure development |
| SUNLIGHT, maze | Secure Virtualization (hypervisor) |
| quadible, SHAYYPE, Verifierhub, CRYPTO QUANTIQUE | Identity Access Management |

# Trends from the 2026 Radar

1

## Growth in global fundraising

The radar has seen an increase in the number of UK startups seeking funding from abroad. Increasing from 26% in 2025 to 30% in 2026.

2

## Continued market access issues

Across both the 2025 and 2026 radar editions, market access remains a persistent barrier, with 38% of surveyed startups citing it as a key

3

## Rise of AI security

In 2026, there was a sharp uptick in AI adoption, with the share of startups embedding AI in their products rising from 30% in 2025 to 62% in 2026.

4

## Geographic dispersion across the ecosystem

More UK cyber startups are now being founded and scaled outside London and the South East, with regional hubs playing a bigger role in the ecosystem.

# Questions?

Find the 2026 startup radar on our website


**Gérôme Billois**
gerome.billois@wavestone.com
Partner

**Florian Pouchet**
florian.pouchet@wavestone.com
Partner

**Saaid Mohamoud**
saaid.mohamoud@wavestone.com
Senior Consultant


With the operational support of:

**Euan Briggs**

**Hamima Zainab**

**Sam Smith**

**Antoine Heitzmann**

**Umair Ahmad**

**Chris Marrai**

**Ayush Ramniclal**

WAVESTONE

## About Wavestone

Born from the rise of digital innovation, Wavestone has evolved into a leading consulting firm positioned at the convergence of business and technology. It helps the world's leading organizations scale new ways of working, transform operations and reinvent business models in the age of AI.

With 6,000 employees across Europe and North America, Wavestone combines business, transformation and technology capabilities to deliver end-to-end consulting services. AI has been embedded across the firm’s expertise and ways of delivering services, enabling clients to translate its potential into tangible and sustainable value.

Wavestone is listed on Euronext Paris and has been certified as a Great Place to Work®.