



Private power – The hidden giants

Behind the world's most visible corporations lies another circle of global influence — powerful, privately held companies that rarely appear in public rankings.

They do not feature in the *Fortune 500*, *Forbes 2000*, or any major stock index, either because they are not listed or because they choose not to disclose the data required for inclusion. Yet their impact on business, innovation, and leadership is extraordinary.

Influence

The [Private Power](#) List, our [30th corporate list](#), identifies the 100 most influential privately held organizations — partnerships, family-owned companies, and investment firms that operate with full independence. All have estimated revenues above \$100 million and are tracked in *The Official Board* database, representing more than 30,000 executives worldwide.

Global Leaders

These companies dominate the sectors that shape how leadership and capital decisions are made: consulting, executive search, accounting, legal services, private equity, venture capital, retail, and global trading. Their combined scale and expertise make them indispensable to the world's largest corporations.

Advisory leaders such as McKinsey & Company, Boston Consulting Group, and Bain & Company shape corporate strategy worldwide. Legal partnerships like Baker McKenzie, Kirkland & Ellis, and Dentons enable the deals that define industries. Accounting networks including PwC, EY, Deloitte, and KPMG ensure trust across global markets.

Equally central are the executive recruiting firms that determine who leads these organizations. Firms such as Spencer Stuart, Egon Zehnder, and Russell Reynolds Associates quietly shape the leadership pipelines of the Global 500 — advising boards, assessing successors, and designing the next generation of C-suites.

Family-controlled businesses like Aldi, Schwarz Group, E. Leclerc, Mars, and Cargill redefine consumer markets without listing their shares.

In investment and technology, CVC Capital Partners, Advent International, Andreessen Horowitz, and Sequoia Capital channel capital into the world's most promising companies. And in energy and commodities trading, firms such as Trafigura, Vitol, and Gunvor move global markets from behind the scenes.

Independence

What unites them is independence — the freedom to act, invest, and innovate without quarterly market pressures. They operate below the radar yet at the center of global influence.

You can [download the full list](#) and track all executive movements across these companies on *The Official Board*.

With *Private Power*, we complete the global map of corporate leadership — bridging the gap between public giants and the private networks that quietly shape how business runs the world.

For more information, contact us at contact@theofficialboard.com.