

## The 2026 AP Automation & Payments Technology Advisor

### Ardent Partners

January 2026

#### Analyst:

Andrew Bartolini

#### Contents:

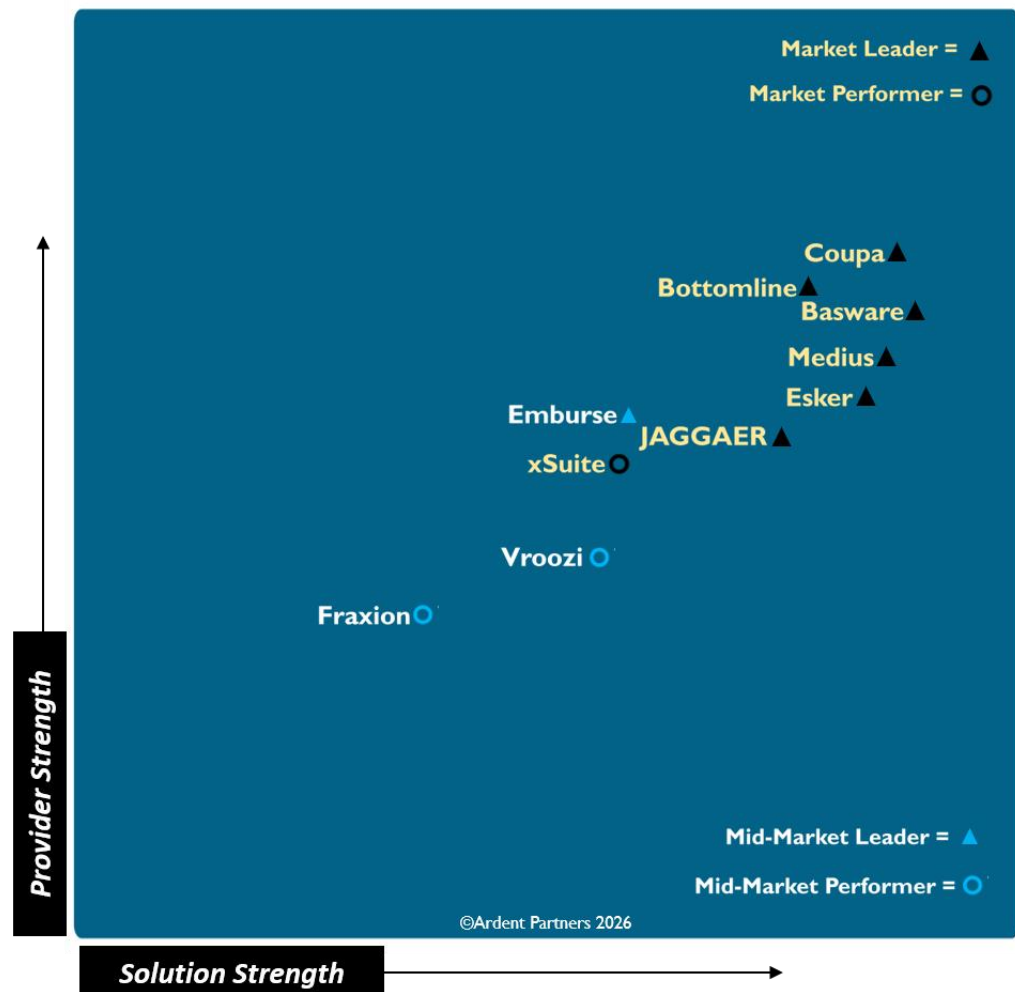
- 1 Executive Summary
- 2 The Ardent Advantage
- 3 Research Methodology
- 4 AP Automation Evaluation Framework
- 5 Evaluating AI Innovation
- 6 The Technology Advisor Rankings
- 7 Provider Profile
- 10 Appendix I – Report Details and Definitions Explained
- 15 Appendix II – About Ardent Partners

### Executive Summary

*This Technology Advisor report is designed to help accounts payable (AP), finance, and P2P leaders navigate the AP Automation and Payments solution provider market.*

#### Ardent Partners' 2026 ePayables Rankings

Ardent Partners evaluated the market's top ePayables solution providers' **Solution Strength** (the ability to support the full scope of accounts payable activity, as defined by Ardent Partners' ePayables Framework discussed below) measured along the X-axis, and **Provider Strength** (which includes factors such as execution ability, client success, references, and product vision) measured along the Y-axis.



## The Ardent Partners Advantage

Ardent Partners uses a rigorous, multimodal research process that leverages qualitative, quantitative, and deep market knowledge to produce its *Technology Advisor* series. It contains inputs on usability, solution functionality, completeness of offering, future solution strategy, technology adoption, company presence, and ability to execute, as well as company focus and vision. Ardent Partners' mission in delivering the *Technology Advisor* is to provide straightforward, useful information that can help organizations make more educated technology decisions. As a result, this *Technology Advisor* report is a valuable tool that AP, finance, P2P, and procurement practitioners can utilize during their solution evaluations.

Ardent Partners is a research and advisory firm focused on defining and advancing the strategies, processes, and technologies that drive measurable business value across finance and procurement operations. Since 2010, Ardent has maintained continuous, in-depth coverage of the Accounts Payable automation and payments market, making it the only firm to consistently analyze this space from its earliest stages of digitization through today's AI-driven revolution. That coverage is led by the industry's most senior and experienced AP automation analyst, providing unmatched continuity, context, and institutional knowledge.

Ardent Partners' research goes far beyond visual matrices or surface-level scoring. Each report is built on clearly defined evaluation criteria, transparent methodology, and detailed qualitative and quantitative analysis designed to help organizations understand not just *where* providers rank, but *why* they perform as they do and *how* those capabilities translate into real-world outcomes. This depth ensures that readers gain practical insight into solution architecture, execution maturity, and operational fit, rather than relying on abstract numerical comparisons alone.

The Ardent Partners advantage includes:

- A senior analyst team with decades of hands-on experience evaluating, implementing, and advising on AP and ePayables solutions.
- A proprietary research repository spanning more than 15,000 AP, P2P, and finance organizations, capturing adoption trends, performance benchmarks, and forward-looking investment plans.
- Frequent advisory involvement in enterprise and mid-market AP and S2P RFP initiatives, bringing real-world buyer perspective into every evaluation.
- A portfolio of respected industry platforms, including Payables Place and CPO Rising, that deliver ongoing market coverage, provider analysis, and practitioner insight.
- A deeply engaged global community of finance, AP, and procurement leaders.
- A nuanced understanding of AP processes, technology architectures, and execution risk that enables actionable guidance, not just comparative rankings.

Together, these strengths allow Ardent Partners to deliver research that combines rigor, relevance, and context, helping organizations navigate complex technology decisions with confidence. Ardent Partners welcomes your questions and comments by email at [Advisor@ardentpartners.com](mailto:Advisor@ardentpartners.com) (note the report title in your subject line).

## Research Methodology

Ardent Partners utilized a rigorous, multi-modal research process that leverages qualitative, quantitative, and deep market knowledge to produce this Technology Advisor Report. The Ardent team identified the solution and market leaders in the ePayables space for inclusion in this research study. This excerpted report includes the detailed evaluation of one provider. The full report, which includes 10 providers and their distinct solutions is available in Ardent Partners' research library (<https://ardentpartners.com/product-category/technology-advisor-report/>).

Participating companies were asked to complete a robust RFI questionnaire covering all aspects of their solution. Areas of focus included Invoice Submission & Receipt, Process & Workflow, Payments, as well as Artificial Intelligence, Reporting & Analytics, and Solution Roadmap. Where possible, Ardent Partners conducted customer interviews with each of the participating solution providers. Ardent's analyst team also participated in detailed briefings and solution demonstrations to gain a complete company overview as well as an in-depth understanding of specific solution capabilities.

This report contains inputs on usability, solution functionality, completeness of offering, innovation, customer reviews, company presence, and ability to execute, as well as company focus and future solution strategy. Ardent Partners' mission in delivering this Technology Advisor is to provide straightforward and useful information that can help organizations make smarter buying decisions. Questions about our methodology, analysis, and conclusions are welcomed and may be directed to [Advisor@ardentpartners.com](mailto:Advisor@ardentpartners.com) (please put the report title in the subject line).

## AP Automation Evaluation Framework

Each provider was given an overall ranking and placed on the matrix found on page I. The report ranking definitions are included in Appendix II. Each ranking uses Ardent's 2026 evaluation framework that is built on a foundation of 22 core capabilities and 10 brand new AI-driven capabilities that together define the functional and technological maturity of the AP automation solutions evaluated in this report. Each capability represents a measurable competency that impacts how well finance and AP teams can manage their tasks and operations. These 32 capabilities are aggregated in each provider's Capability Profile shared in Exhibit I. As a way to help readers streamline their understanding of each provider, these capabilities were consolidated into six higher-level "Solution Categories" that reflect how AP teams actually experience and benefit from automation. This structure ensures that both functional performance and emerging innovation are evaluated through a consistent and practical lens. The categories are:

- ▶ **AI Innovation** examines embedded and generative automation, anomaly detection, predictive analytics, and agentic workflows.
- ▶ **User Experience, Analytics & Governance** indicates usability, visibility, compliance, and reporting where AP teams realize the impact of automation daily.
- ▶ **Invoice Automation & Processing** assesses how well solutions digitize, route, and reconcile invoices with minimal human touch.
- ▶ **Payments & Cash Management** focuses on payment execution, flexibility, and financial optimization.
- ▶ **Supplier Management** measures the depth of connectivity and transparency across supplier interactions.
- ▶ **Platform Architecture & Global Support** evaluates scalability, multi-ERP integration, and geographic coverage.

To balance depth with readability, the main provider write-ups present results and insights organized by these six categories, offering a clear narrative of where each provider excels. The detailed attribute scores, including AI-specific capability rankings, are included in the appendix for readers who want to analyze performance at a more granular level. This layered approach allows AP and finance leaders to quickly understand comparative strengths without losing access to the underlying data, ideally bridging the gap between analytical rigor and pragmatic, real-world application.

## Evaluating AI Innovation in 2026

Ardent Partners approached the evaluation of AI innovation with genuine optimism about the transformative potential AI will one day bring to Accounts Payable, while remaining grounded in the reality that the market is still in the early stages of adoption and maturity. AI is already reshaping how invoices are captured, validated, routed, and approved, and the next wave of innovation promises to move invoice and payment automation beyond transactional efficiency to eventually help AP departments become a more intelligence-driven operation. At the same time, many of the most ambitious capabilities, particularly predictive intelligence, agentic workflows, and generative interfaces, are still emerging. For this reason, the report intentionally avoided assigning “Leader” designations in the most advanced AI categories, recognizing that no provider has yet achieved consistent, enterprise-scale maturity in these areas.

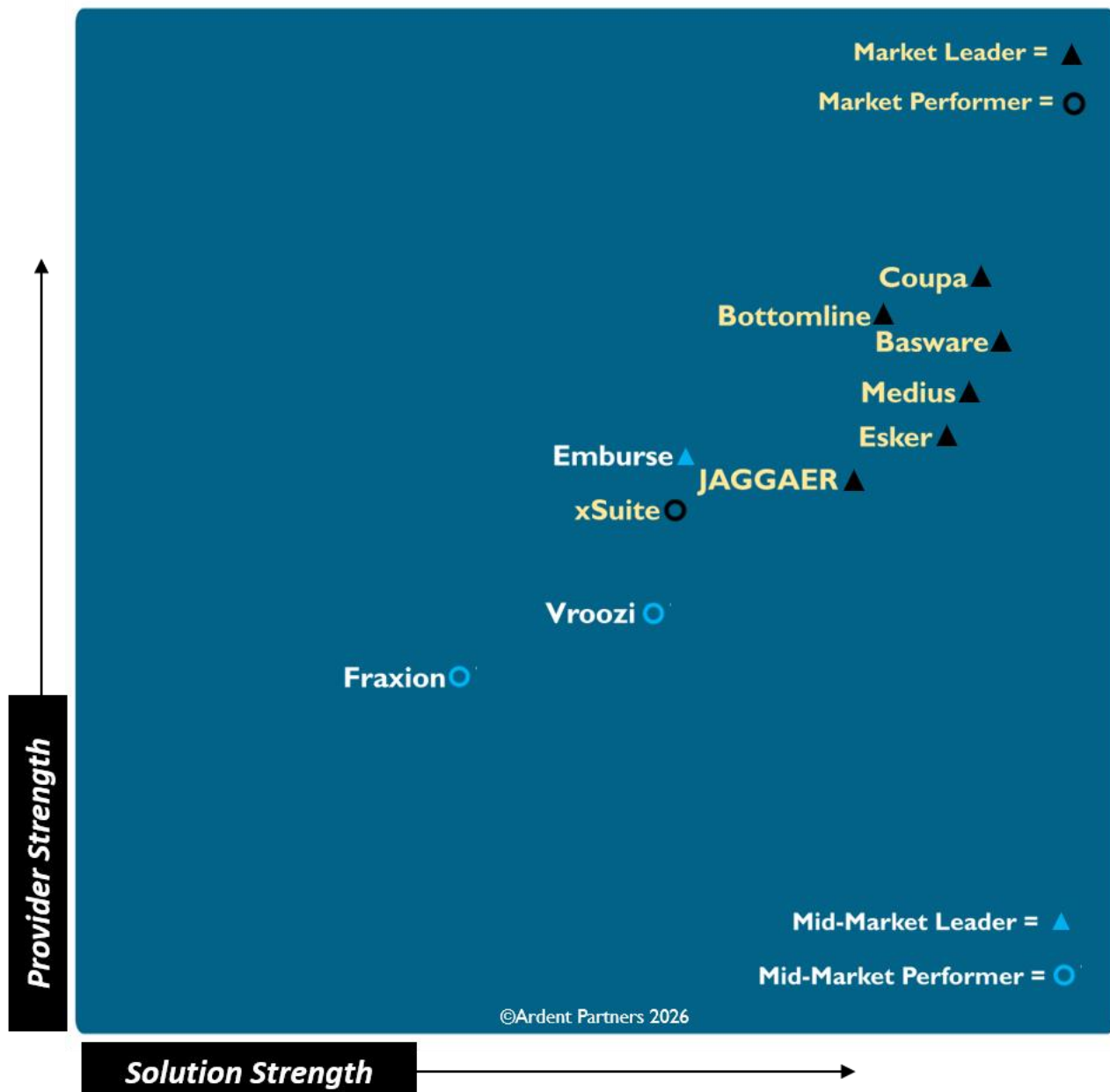
To ensure fairness and relevance, the evaluation focused strictly on AP-specific AI capabilities, even for providers offering broad Source-to-Pay or enterprise platforms. To maintain alignment with the overall report, Ardent Partners focused its analysis only where AI functionality directly impacts AP teams and AP outcomes, rather than adjacent areas such as sourcing, contracting, or spend analytics that AP organizations may not access. Each provider was assessed against ten clearly defined AI capability areas, including AI-driven data capture and classification, autonomous invoice processing, exception handling, conversational interfaces, agentic AI, and risk and compliance. This approach ensured that platform breadth did not overshadow practical AP execution. These capabilities were translated into a single AI Innovation ranking (Elite, Strong, and Emerging). The ranking definitions can be found in Appendix II.

Finally, the assessment emphasized real-world usability, trust, and execution, not roadmap ambition alone. Transparency, explainability, human-in-the-loop design, and governance were weighted alongside innovation to reflect the realities of AP environments where accuracy, auditability, and confidence matter as much as automation. Roadmaps and future vision were considered, but only in the context of demonstrated progress and architectural readiness. The result is an evaluation framework that balances enthusiasm for what AI can become with a pragmatic view of what it reliably delivers to AP teams today.

## The Technology Advisor Rankings

Ardent Partners evaluated and ranked the solution providers in this report based upon two essential areas of consideration. (1) **Solution Strength**, which includes the quality, depth, and breadth of the provider's current ePayables solution across the full AP process as defined in Ardent's ePayables Framework. The solution strength evaluation also considers factors like usability, functionality, and the solution's ability to support key tasks, activities, and processes that drive the AP function. (2) **Provider Strength**, which considers distinct quantitative and qualitative factors, including support and delivery capabilities, analytics and reporting, specialization, product roadmap with a strong weighting on AI, and customer references. See Appendix I for detailed scoring of each provider's key capabilities. Appendix II provides a comprehensive discussion of Ardent Partners' ranking criteria.

**Figure 2: The 2026 AP Automation and Payments Technology Advisor Rankings**



## Provider Profile

### Bottomline

*Ardent Partners' evaluation and analysis have ranked Bottomline as a "Market Leader" in the 2026 AP Automation and Payments Technology Advisor. Bottomline also received an "Emerging Performer" ranking in the area of AI Innovation.*

Bottomline offers a leading B2B payments network and AP automation platform, headquartered in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, with a global footprint across North America, EMEA, and APAC. Founded in 1989, the company serves finance and AP teams in midsize and large enterprises looking to optimize supplier payments, reduce fraud risk, and improve cash management through invoice automation and electronic payments. Its product strategy centers on digital payment enablement, supplier onboarding at scale, and secure, compliant transaction processing. Ardent Partners reviewed and evaluated the company's collection of offerings that support AP operations.

### Why AP Leaders Choose Paymode, Bottomline's Business Payments Network

AP leaders choose Bottomline's Paymode platform for its combined strength in integrated payments and AP automation, delivered within a single, unified environment for invoice-to-payment processing. With more than 1,200 customers and over 600,000 businesses on the Paymode network, Bottomline provides embedded payments, supplier connectivity, and mature automation capabilities that distinguish it from providers dependent on third-party payment partners. The platform's AP automation features include AI/ML-based data capture, PO and non-PO invoice matching, rule-based workflow routing, mobile approvals, and configurable dashboards for monitoring invoice status and cycle times. Its proprietary payment network supports virtual card, ACH, and other electronic payment types, along with USD and CAD check processing. The network also supports international payments to 53 countries in 26 currencies. Bottomline also manages supplier onboarding and enablement directly, while integrated fraud protection and detailed remittance data enhance data integrity, compliance, and audit readiness across the AP process.

### AI Innovation

**Bottomline is recognized as an Emerging Performer for AI innovation.** AI innovation highlights within its current offering include:

- ★ AI usage supports automation, fraud detection, and exception management, with humans in the loop to validate findings and guide key decisions.
- ★ Machine learning enhances data extraction, classification, and coding accuracy, while future roadmap investments include agentic and generative AI capabilities.
- ★ Ethical AI use is governed by companywide policies, anonymized data practices, and forthcoming Microsoft Copilot-based chatbot developments for internal productivity.

## Analyst Perspective on Paymode, Bottomline's business payments network

Bottomline's Paymode platform stands out for combining mature AP automation with one of the industry's strongest integrated B2B payment networks. Paymode stands out for (1) its B2B payments network that supports more than \$500 billion in annual transactions. (2) Delivering a solution that unifies invoice processing, payment execution, and supplier enablement within a secure, tokenized environment that mitigates fraud and enhances compliance. (3) Its modern and intuitive user interface and workflow configuration as well as the extension of the company's treasury and payment capabilities beyond AP to broader cash-management objectives.

The company's AI footprint remains concentrated in data capture and risk scoring, providing strong value but not yet matching the breadth or sophistication seen in several rival platforms. For a provider of its maturity and overall product strength, the development of more autonomous AI features represents a great near-term opportunity. The development of broader, more autonomous AI capabilities will be critical to meeting rising market expectations. Nonetheless, its underlying platform strength, network scale, and deep security architecture position Bottomline as a trusted, payments-centric AP automation provider with room to expand its intelligence layer.

**Ardent Partners ranks Bottomline as a Market Leader in AP Automation and Payments.**

Bottomline AP Automation and Payment Solution Categories			
AI Innovation & Intelligence	Strong	Invoice Automation & Processing	Strong
User Experience, Analytics & Governance	Leader	Payments & Cash Management	Leader
Platform Architecture & Global Support	Strong	Supplier Management	Leader

A detailed rating of Bottomline's key capabilities is included below.



Capability Profile - Bottomline				
AI Innovation & Intelligence	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
Overall AI Approach			✓	
AI-Driven Data Capture & Classification			✓	
Predictive Analytics & Insights			✓	
Autonomous Invoice Processing			✓	
AI-Enhanced Exception Handling			✓	
Conversational / Generative AI Interface			✓	
Agentic AI			✓	
Transparency, Trust, and Explainability			✓	
Risk, Security, and Compliance				✓
AI Roadmap & Future Vision			✓	
User Experience, Analytics & Governance	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
Overall User Experience / Usability			✓	
Governance, Risk, & Compliance Capabilities				✓
Reporting & Analytics				✓
Product Roadmap				✓
Customer Benchmarking, Networking, Knowledge Sharing				✓
Mobile Application				✓
Invoice Automation & Processing	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
Invoice File Formats Supported				✓
Pre-Approval Invoice Validation				✓
Global Invoicing Compliance		✓		
Auto Coding / Routing Functionality				✓
Exception Handling			✓	
Matching and Rules Engine				✓
Workflow Capabilities			✓	
Payments & Cash Management	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
B2B Payment Types Supported				✓
Finance Capabilities (Supply Chain Financing, Dynamic Discounting, Working Capital Management)				✓
Supplier Management	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
Supplier Enablement - Invoice Submission			✓	
Supplier Enablement - Payments				✓
Supplier Network Size & Capabilities				✓
Supplier Portal				✓
Platform Architecture & Global Support	Limited	Emerging	Strong	Leader
Global Footprint			✓	
Multi-ERP Support				✓
Multi-Language / Currency Support			✓	

# Appendix I

## Research Process

Ardent Partners used a rigorous, multi-modal research process that leveraged qualitative, quantitative, and deep market knowledge to produce the ePayables Technology Advisor. Ardent analysts leveraged seven different sources of data to produce their rankings and evaluations:

1. **RFI survey:** Each provider in this report completed a comprehensive survey (a “Request for Information”) that addressed the company, including its size, customers, partners, and financial strength. The survey also captured details regarding the ePayables solution, including breadth of offering, current capabilities, roadmap, strategy, and adoption by customers.
2. **Briefing:** Each provider presented an interactive briefing presentation to the Ardent Partners analyst team.
3. **Product demonstration:** Ardent Partners’ analysts viewed an in-depth solution demo covering the Receipt, Process, and Payment phases of the ePayables framework.
4. **Reference calls:** Ardent Partners conducted between three and five phone reference calls for every provider in the report and graded how the solutions were being used today and the overall satisfaction with both the provider and the solution.
5. **Analyst experience:** The analyst team responsible for authoring this report has collectively spent more than four decades working in the ePayables technology space.
6. **Market research:** Over the past decade, Ardent Partners has conducted an extensive series of market research studies that has enabled it to survey, benchmark, interview, and engage leaders from thousands of distinct AP operations. This working body of knowledge helps frame this report and others focused on the AP market.
7. **Market inquiries:** Each year, Ardent Partners takes hundreds of inquiries from AP and P2P professionals to discuss their overall technology strategies, technical and business requirements for automation, ePayables automation RFPs, and their opinions and views of the providers in the marketplace.

The reference calls and product demonstrations were used to validate Ardent’s overall findings, including usability, solution functionality, breadth of offering, future solution strategy, technology adoption, company presence, and ability to execute.

## Ranking Criteria and Definitions

The overall provider rankings are based upon a more detailed analysis than found in many other analyst reports. Ardent Partners evaluated and ranked the solution providers in this report based upon two essential areas of consideration: **(1) Solution strength**, which includes the quality, depth, and breadth of the provider’s current ePayables solution across the full AP process as defined in Ardent’s ePayables Framework. The solution strength evaluation also considers factors like usability, functionality, and the solution’s ability to support key tasks, activities, and processes that drive the AP function. Highlighted prominently in this year’s assessment is the use and application of AI-driven capabilities across the full invoice, process, and pay areas. **(2) Provider strength**, which considers distinct quantitative and qualitative factors, including support and delivery capabilities, analytics and reporting, specialization, product roadmap, and customer references. Ardent Partners’ evaluation criteria includes **Solution Category** rankings which were created to summarize the broad set of capabilities (the **Capability Profile**) evaluated in the report. Definitions and a deeper discussion continue below.

## Overall Report Ranking Definitions

Each provider receives an overall ranking based upon its performance in the **solution strength** and **provider strength** areas. The individual rankings are defined below.

### Market Leader

Market Leaders deliver consistently strong best-in-class solutions across the full AP automation and payments lifecycle, combining advanced functionality, scalable architecture, and proven execution at scale. These providers set market direction through innovation, breadth of capability, and the ability to support complex, global, and high-volume AP environments. Some Market Leaders also operate as de facto mid-market leaders through appropriately scaled offerings.

### Market Performer

Market Performers offer competitive, well-rounded AP automation and payments solutions that meet the needs of many organizations but do not yet demonstrate the same breadth, depth, or market-shaping influence as Market Leaders. They execute reliably within defined scopes and represent strong alternatives for organizations with more targeted requirements.

### Mid-Market Leader

Mid-Market Leaders provide best-in-class AP automation and payments capabilities purpose-built for mid-market organizations, balancing sophistication with usability, speed of deployment, and cost efficiency. These providers excel at delivering rapid time-to-value and high adoption without the complexity required by large global enterprises.

### Mid-Market Performer

Mid-Market Performers deliver solid, functional AP automation and payments solutions that align well with common mid-market needs but lack the differentiation or scale to be considered leaders. They are viable, lower-risk options for organizations seeking dependable automation without advanced capabilities or extensive customization.

## Solution Category and Capability Profile - Interpretation Key

Rating	Meaning
<b>Leader</b>	Among the strongest performers; fully mature capabilities that set industry standards.
<b>Strong</b>	Well-developed capabilities with proven performance and customer adoption.
<b>Emerging</b>	Functional but still maturing; early innovation or partial feature depth.
<b>Limited</b>	Foundational or narrow capability area with significant room for growth.

## AI Innovation Ranking Definitions

### Elite

Elite providers demonstrate advanced, AP-specific AI capabilities that are deeply embedded across invoice capture, exception handling, and workflow automation, with early progress toward autonomy and agent-driven execution. Their AI is proven in production, explainable, and meaningfully improves AP efficiency at scale.

### Strong

Strong providers deliver credible, production-ready AI that enhances core AP processes such as capture accuracy, coding, routing, and risk detection, but with limited autonomy or strategic intelligence. Their AI consistently adds value today, though it remains narrower in scope or depth than Elite peers.

### Emerging

Emerging providers have foundational or early-stage AI capabilities, often focused on roadmap initiatives, rules-based automation, or selective use cases rather than deeply embedded intelligence. While directionally sound, their AI impact in AP is still developing and not yet a primary differentiator.

## Ranking Criteria: Solution Strength

### Receive

Ardent Partners' ranking criteria focused on how the solution providers address and manage invoices. Key factors in the evaluation include:

- **The availability and capabilities of a supplier portal for invoice submission, supplier information management, and process/status visibility.**
- **Availability, capabilities, size, and reach of a business network to support eInvoicing and/or B2B payments.**
- **Global invoicing compliance capabilities.**
- **Supplier enablement support capabilities.**
- **The range of file formats supported and how they are managed.**
- **Smart invoicing and the ability to both mitigate invoice issues and manage exceptions.**

Other considerations included: solution usability, customer satisfaction, and ability to eliminate paper from processes.

### Process

Ardent Partners' ranking criteria focused on how the solution providers process invoices. Key factors in the evaluation include:

- **The ability to manage a broad range of AP department and approval workflows, including the ability to support straight-through or touchless processing.**
- **The availability and sophistication of invoice matching capabilities.**
- **The availability and sophistication of the business rules engine.**
- **The ability to facilitate internal and external communication and collaboration.**
- **The ability to manage and clear exceptions.**

Other considerations included: the ability to process both PO and Non-PO invoices, configurability of the solution to process invoices, completeness of audit trail, mobility, and solution usability.

## Pay

Ardent Partners' ranking criteria focused on how the solution providers pay its suppliers. Key factors in the evaluation include:

- **Payment scheduling and execution capabilities.**
- **The types of payments supported.**
- **Supplier enablement support capabilities.**
- **The ability to facilitate communication, visibility, and payment status via a portal or network.**
- **The level of global and geographic scope supported by the payment solution.**
- **The availability of financing options, such as dynamic discounting and supply chain financing.**

Other considerations included: reporting, dashboards, and visibility that share status, schedules, metrics, and cash impact opportunities, including early pay discounts. Security and solution usability were other important considerations. Other technical considerations that were applied across the evaluation of all three phases include Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Robotic Process Automation (RPA), and autonomous processing. Benchmarking capabilities were newly included in this year's report.

## Ranking Criteria: Provider Strength

The providers included in this report have a longstanding track record of performance in the market and a proven ability to deliver ePayables automation solutions to global enterprises.

### Execution

1. **References:** Analysts engaged in conversations with the references of each provider (AP practitioners) to discuss how the solution has been deployed and used. The calls also captured general comments and feedback around feature functionality, usability, and performance, as well as their overall satisfaction with both the provider and their solution.
2. **Platform capabilities:** Each solution provider was ranked on their proficiency across a wide range of areas, including solution security, deployment methodology, solution support, platform expertise, integration with ERPs and other back-end systems, and network capabilities.
3. **Reporting & Analytics:** Each solution provider was ranked on how well their solutions extracted and presented data, enabled users to perform analysis and present insights, and its ease of use.
4. **Support/Delivery method:** Each solution provider's delivery models were examined to understand what support resources were provided to users, along with how solutions were implemented, how upgrades performed, and the frequency of new solution releases.
5. **Other:** This included a wide range of areas not covered in other categories, including a provider's ability to sell, support, and develop its solution globally. It also included their presence and staffing levels in regions other than North America. Also examined were the features provided for mobile use of the solution, along with any functional limitations.

### Vision

1. **Demo Grade:** Ardent Partners' analysts ranked the in-depth solution demonstration from each provider. The ranking combined the overall solution grade and the provider's understanding of the market's needs and ability to deliver a clear and cogent message.
2. **Solution strategy and roadmap:** The vision and strategic direction of the solution provider and its ePayables automation solutions were examined, including recent solution innovations and the specific and general direction of the product roadmap in general, and its AI roadmap specifically.
3. **Breadth/Depth of solution:** The completeness of solutions and services offered were examined across the entire AP process and the aggregate functional capabilities of the solution suite.
4. **Market specialization:** The strategy and solution fit for capitalizing on a specific segment of the market were examined, whether it be by industry, geographic region, customer size, or individual market/vertical segments.
5. **Other:** The market applicability of a provider's solution, including both buyer and supplier perspectives, were examined. Also included, were the overall sense and feel for how well a provider understands the market, listens to its customers, and anticipates their needs.

# Appendix II

## About the Author



**Andrew Bartolini: ProcureTech, AP, & Future of Work Analyst | Founder & CRO | 25+ Years Tracking the Evolution of S2P and AP Innovation**

Andrew Bartolini is one of the most influential voices in the global finance and procurement technology community. Andrew has spent more than two decades analyzing how technology, talent, and intelligence are reshaping the business of accounts payable, procurement, and the future of work.

Recognized as a leading industry analyst, Bartolini's research and thought leadership reach hundreds of thousands of professionals each year through published reports, research briefs, webinars, articles published each year across Ardent's network of sites (see *below*), and advisory engagements. He has built one of the largest and most engaged networks of procurement and AP executives worldwide, a trusted community that looks to his work for data-driven insights and pragmatic guidance in developing best practices and selecting solutions.

Under his direction, Ardent Partners has become a respected independent authority on source-to-pay solutions (including ProcureTech, Source-to-Pay, Invoice Automation, B2B Payments, Extended Workforce, and AI market trends, and Best-in-Class performance strategies. They are the "go to" firm for fast insights and advice and his work continues to help CPOs, AP/finance leaders, and technology providers navigate change, harness innovation, and build smarter, more resilient operations in an era defined by volatility, automation, and AI.

With 17 years leading the charge as Ardent Partners' Chief Research Officer, Andrew oversees all of Ardent's research and client programs including the annual State of the Market and Metrics that Matter eBook Series', Technology Advisor Reports, Ardent's monthly webinar series, as well as its in-person and virtual CPO Rising Summits. Andrew is also the publisher of Ardent's three popular industry sites:

- **CPO Rising:** Since 2010, this site has been covering the topics, trends and technologies that matter to Chief Procurement Officers and other procurement leaders ([www.cporising.com](http://www.cporising.com)).
- **Payables Place:** Ardent's site dedicated to covering all aspects of accounts payable automation, AI, and best practices ([www.payablesplace.com](http://www.payablesplace.com)).
- **The Future of Work Exchange:** Ardent's subscription-based site laser-focused on the convergence of talent and innovation and the impact that the extended workforce has on business operations and bottom line performance ([www.futureofworkexchange.com](http://www.futureofworkexchange.com)).

Follow or connect with him on [LinkedIn](#).

## Ardent Partners: Research with Results

Ardent Partners is a next-generation analyst firm that leverages its data-driven research to help business executives make smarter decisions and achieve better results. Ardent's clients (and global community) understand and appreciate that when we publish research and guide our clients, we do so based upon literally thousands of data points collected and analyzed over the past two decades. Our unique primary research methodology, high-impact research publications, and deep-domain focus set Ardent apart from its competition. Our community is expansive, our influence is extensive, and our research delivers results!

Contact [advisor@ardentpartners.com](mailto:advisor@ardentpartners.com) if you have any questions about this report or our research in general.



Visit [www.ardentpartners.com](http://www.ardentpartners.com).



## Disclosures

Ardent Partners utilizes a rigorous, research methodology developed over the past decade and works tirelessly to deliver high-quality, independent research. Your comments and feedback are welcomed at [advisor@ardentpartners.com](mailto:advisor@ardentpartners.com).

Ardent Partners does not endorse any solution provider or individual solution discussed in this or any of its other research reports, presentations, and online publications. This research should not be considered as advice that a buyer select any solution provider based on their rankings or position in this report. Readers should not rely upon any material or information within this research as a basis for making any business, legal, financial, or any other decisions. Any such reliance shall be solely at the buyer's risk.

The information contained herein has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable. Ardent Partners, Ltd. disclaims all warranties as to the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of such information. Ardent Partners, Ltd. shall have no liability for errors, omissions, or inadequacies in the information contained herein or for interpretations thereof. The contents expressed herein represent Ardent Partners' best analysis at the time and are subject to change without notice. Furthermore, Ardent Partners' research should not be construed as statements of fact. Additionally, Ardent Partners Ltd. does not advise readers of this report or any business practitioners to select only those solution providers with the highest ratings or other designation.

© 2026 Ardent Partners, Ltd. All rights reserved. Reproduction and distribution of this publication in any form without prior written permission is forbidden. Solution providers and consultancies should take special note that Ardent Partners reserves the right to seek legal remedies including injunctions, impoundment, destruction, damages, and fees for any copyright infringement (which includes but is not limited to usage of any Ardent Partners content in company collateral, presentations, and websites) in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States.