Oakley Capital

Oakley Capital invests in Graphwise, a leading enterprise AI data platform

Oakley Capital ("Oakley"), a leading European mid-market private equity investor, is pleased to announce that Fund VI has agreed to acquire a majority stake in Graphwise, a pioneer in knowledge graph and semantic data technology, which is a key enabler of enterprise AI. Oakley will partner with the company's founders and management team to support its commercial expansion and strengthen its market-leading position.

Graphwise's software is trusted by more than 200 blue-chip customers to improve their enterprise AI capability, making it more accurate, auditable and able to deal with large and diverse data sets. Graphwise does this by structuring enterprise data in a type of database called a knowledge graph, enriching it with context, meaning and connections to form what is known as the "semantic layer." This is increasingly viewed as critical AI infrastructure technology for businesses.

The value of AI depends on the quality and reliability of the data behind it. Large language models ("LLMs") are strong at processing language, but have limitations, including factual consistency and explaining how they arrived at conclusions. The semantic layer addresses these limitations by giving LLMs a reliable layer of facts to retrieve from and reason over. This is particularly valuable in regulated, data-intensive sectors such as financial services, life sciences and the public sector, where compliance, auditability and data governance are essential.

The company was formed in 2024 through the merger of two pioneers in semantic technologies: Ontotext, founded in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2000 by Atanas Kiryakov, and Vienna-based Semantic Web Company, founded in 2004 by Andreas Blumauer and Martin Kaltenböck. Since then, Graphwise has established itself as the global leader in RDF ("Resource Description Framework") knowledge graph and semantic layer technology, delivering organic ARR growth of over 30% a year. Driven by the structural tailwinds of AI, growth is set to accelerate as Graphwise establishes itself as the enabling infrastructure layer for enterprise AI.

Oakley will work closely with the founders to build on Graphwise's strong product by developing its commercial capabilities and go-to-market strategy, strengthening its footprint in key international markets, and pursuing selective strategic acquisitions in a highly fragmented market.

Peter Dubens, Founder and Managing Partner of Oakley Capital, said: "AI is changing how every organisation operates, but it also makes trusted, well-governed data more important than ever. Graphwise has built an exceptional platform to solve that challenge and has already demonstrated impressive growth. We look forward to partnering with Atanas and the team to help the business build on that momentum and realise its full potential."

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Atanas Kiryakov, President and Co-founder of Graphwise, said: "We are excited for this new partnership with Oakley, where we have found a team that understands both our technology and our ambition. Oakley has an outstanding track record of helping founder-led software businesses reach the next stage of growth. Together, we look forward to expanding our platform and supporting more organisations to adopt AI with confidence."