PRE-DEAL IP SCREENING

Merevale Process Intelligence Ltd

Industrial monitoring. Public-source IP research before first contact.

OUR VIEW

Proceed to first contact. Test the US growth plan first.

The new wireless product raises questions about patent coverage and a competitor's US rights. Confirm the route to launch, then test software rights and the ownership records.

22	0	5	8
patent families reviewed	documents from the target	key findings	first-meeting questions

What matters to the investment case

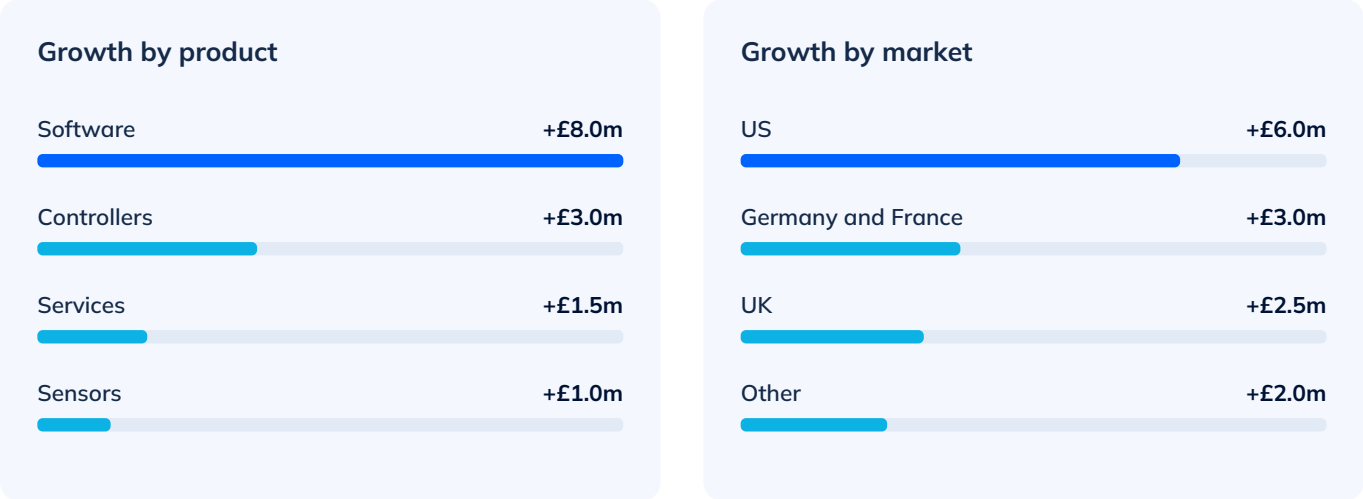
US expansion	RED	v4 differs from the patented wired product. Review Caldrin's US patent before relying on the launch plan.	3–4
Sensor premium	AMBER	Core housing protection expires at exit. Check how calibration performance and know-how sustain pricing.	5, 7
Ownership	AMBER	US patent title, university terms and agency code rights need documentary checks.	6
Software growth	OPEN	Code and customer data rights cannot be established from public records.	6, 10
Opportunities	GREEN	Review Patent Box, claim development, potential licensing and patent spend.	8

Fictional example. The companies, patents, public-source records and financial figures are invented. Financial sensitivities use illustrative buyer assumptions, with no information from the target.

THE INVESTMENT CASE

The IP questions behind the growth plan

The buyer's origination model adds £13.5m of revenue by FY29. Software contributes £8.0m of growth and the US £6.0m. These are the priorities for the screen. [P01]



FY26 revenue £22.5m to FY29 revenue £36.0m. Both charts show the same £13.5m increase, viewed by product and market. They should not be added together.

Buyer assumption	Public evidence to test	Rating
US expansion Revenue £2.0m to £8.0m	The wired claim comparison does not fit v4 in full. F11 is pending in the US after an initial claim rejection.	RED
Premium pricing Self-calibrating sensors	Calibration grants cover the UK and parts of Europe. No US calibration grant was found in the families reviewed.	AMBER
Exit around 2030	F02 expires at the planned exit. US title to F04 is still recorded against a dissolved company.	AMBER
Software growth Revenue £5.0m to £13.0m	An agency says it built the core engine. Actual code and customer data rights need the contracts.	OPEN
Additional value	Potential tax relief, further patent protection, licensing and cost savings need assessment.	GREEN

Ratings Red could affect the plan or price. Amber needs investigation. Open needs company information. Green identifies a potential opportunity. A rating is a screening priority, not proof of a problem.

FINDING 1 · US EXPANSION

RED

The main wired claim does not fit v4

The US plan relies on a wireless controller. The main controller patent was written for a wired system. Its own wireless family has a UK grant, with US and European applications still pending. [P02, P03, P06, P07]

F04: simplified claim comparison

Claim feature	Wired controller v3	Wireless controller v4
Distributed vibration sensors	Present	Present
Signals over a wired, synchronised link	Present	**Absent** Radio nodes send event packets
Reference calibration at the controller	Present	**Changed** Partly moved to the node
Temperature drift correction	Present	Present

v3: product datasheet. v4: launch material and the public FCC user manual. [P06, P07, G4]

Patent status by market

Family	UK	Germany / France	US
F04 Wired control	Granted	Granted	Granted Title query on page 6
F11 Wireless scheduling	Granted	Pending European application	Pending Initial claim rejection in 2026

What the record shows

v4 drops the wired-link feature and changes where calibration takes place. The selected F04 claim may therefore offer less protection for the new product. Other claims need checking.

Commercial implication

Do not assume the existing patent portfolio supports the same US pricing premium for v4. A pending application could still produce useful claims, but the scope and outcome are uncertain.

BUYER ACTION

Request a claim map for v4 and the response plan for F11. Assess any assumed patent-backed premium before a binding offer.

This is a comparison of one simplified claim with public product descriptions. It is not a claim scope, infringement or validity opinion.

FINDING 2 · US EXPANSION

RED

Caldrin's US patent needs a closer look

The examiner cited Caldrin's L03 patent against F11. L03 also describes features that may be present in v4. This is a reason for a targeted US review, not a finding of infringement. [P03, P07, P08]

PUBLIC-RECORD CONNECTIONS

Merevale F11
US application
still pending

Examiner citation

Caldrin L03
US grant, 2024
indicated expiry 2038

Possible feature overlap

Merevale v4
Wireless controller
public US manual

A separate lead: Caldrin's filings cite F04 seven times. Check actual product use and Merevale's title before considering any licensing value.

L03: simplified comparison with v4

L03 feature	Public v4 description	Screening view
Transmission timing adjusts to battery level	Battery-aware reporting intervals	Possible match
Gateway sets a shared timing window	Not described	Unknown
Timing window changes after a fault	Adaptive retry routine	Possible match

Why it matters

If relevant claims cover v4, the US plan could require a licence or a design change. Cost and timing depend on the full claim analysis and the product implementation.

What to check

Has the final v4 design been reviewed against Caldrin's US rights? Ask for the scope, date and conclusions of any review, including the shared timing-window feature.

BUYER ACTION

Assess the US launch route before a binding offer. If an issue remains, agree how it affects price, rollout timing and any completion requirement.

An examiner citation addresses patentability. It does not establish infringement. Citations to F04 do not establish that Caldrin uses the claimed invention.

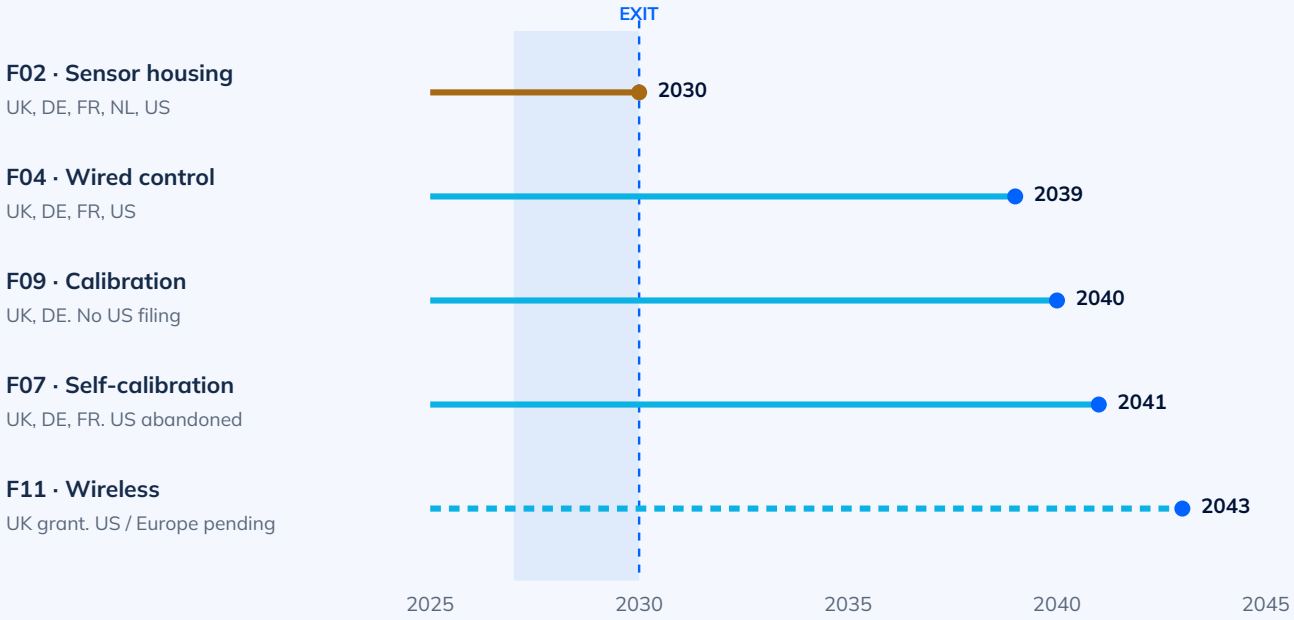
FINDING 3 · PROTECTION LIFE

AMBER

Sensor housing protection expires at the planned exit

F02 reaches its indicated expiry in 2030. The calibration families run longer, but their granted coverage does not extend to the US in the records reviewed. [P01, P02, P08]

PATENT LIFE AGAINST THE 2027 TO 2030 HOLD



Solid lines show granted families. F11 is dashed because US and European claims remain pending. Dates are indicative and assume renewals are paid.

Market signal

Orren's 2026 catalogue includes a lower-cost sensor housing. F02 expiry removes one identified patent barrier to similar designs. It does not establish that the rest of the portfolio offers no protection. [P08]

Commercial implication

Test the sensor premium against product performance, switching costs and documented know-how. Ask what will support that premium in 2030, particularly in the US.

BUYER ACTION

Run a sensor pricing sensitivity without F02. Ask which product developments, rights and operating advantages will replace that protection during the hold.

Recent applications may not yet be public. Applications are normally published about 18 months after the earliest filing or priority date. [G3]

FINDING 4 · OWNERSHIP

AMBER

Three rights checks before committing

Public records identify three areas to verify. They do not prove that Merevale lacks the rights. Resolve material gaps before completion, following verification before a binding offer. [P04, P05, P09, P10]

01 US controller patent title

RECORD US records name Merevale Sensors Ltd as owner of F04. Companies House shows the company was dissolved in 2022.

CHECK The register may be out of date, or the title chain may need repair. Public records cannot distinguish the two. Counsel should review the position at dissolution. [G6]

REQUEST Executed assignment and title chain, including the transfer date. Agree any further steps needed to establish and record ownership.

02 University rights in calibration patents

RECORD F07 and F09 name the University of Northbridge as co-applicant. Funding records describe a joint research project.

CHECK Confirm the current owners and the agreement. UK co-owner consent rules for licensing and assigning patent shares can be changed by agreement. They do not automatically apply to a corporate share sale. [G2]

REQUEST Collaboration, ownership and licence terms, including consent, change of control and any option to acquire the university's interest.

03 Agency-built software

RECORD Brightline's public case study says it built the core signal-processing engine. Controllers and software total £11.0m of estimated FY26 revenue.

CHECK Commissioning code does not itself transfer copyright. Merevale may have an assignment or a sufficient licence, but neither can be checked publicly. [G1]

REQUEST Signed assignment or licence covering operation, modification, sublicensing and the proposed transaction, including any third-party components.

BUYER ACTION

Raise these at the first meeting. Where rights are essential to the investment case, require satisfactory evidence and any necessary remediation before completion.

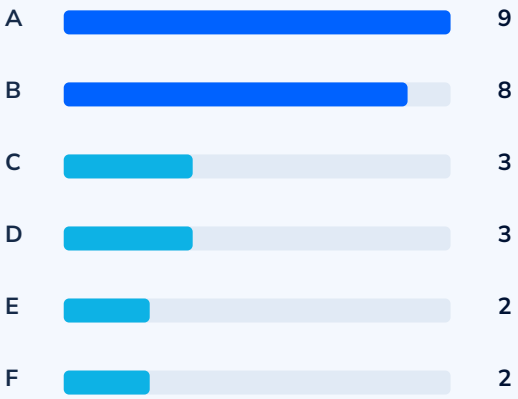
FINDING 5 · KNOW-HOW

AMBER

Calibration filings rely on the same two inventors

Inventors A and B are named on all five calibration families. B now lists a Veyra Analytics role and appears on a published Veyra application. This raises a continuity question, not evidence of misuse. [P02, P08, P10]

Families naming each inventor



Of 22 families. A family can name more than one inventor.

Five calibration families

FAMILY	A	B	OTHER
F07	●	●	C
F09	●	●	Unstated*
F13	●	●	None
F16	●	●	D
F18	●	●	None

*Other inventors not stated for F09.
University ownership is covered on page 6.

Inventor B: public record



What this supports

The filings show concentrated historical contributions. They do not show who holds current know-how, how well it is documented, or whether the present team can reproduce the method.

What to ask

Who now leads calibration? Can another team member repeat the process? Review technical records, training and the confidentiality terms that applied when B left.

BUYER ACTION

Test whether the calibration advantage is repeatable within the current business. Treat this as an operating continuity check as well as a confidentiality question.

OPPORTUNITIES

GREEN

Four areas worth assessing during the hold

The public record points to possible benefits as well as risks. None is included in the model sensitivities on page 9. [P02, P03, P05, P06, P08]

01 · TAX

Review Patent Box eligibility

£0.3m

Illustrative annual cash tax saving

UK and European grants may support eligibility. Accounts near the main tax rate do not establish whether relief is already claimed. If £2.0m of fully qualifying profit moved from 25% to 10%, the saving would be £0.3m.

Next: Check the election, eligibility, qualifying profits and R&D. The election deadline is two years after the accounting period end. [G5]

02 · PROTECTION

Pursue useful US claims

F11

US application remains open

The initial rejection does not end the application. Assess whether the filed disclosure supports claims that cover v4 and can overcome the cited art. A useful grant could strengthen protection, but would not establish freedom to operate.

Next: Review the response strategy, scope, cost and timetable with the patent attorney.

03 · LICENSING

Check Caldrin's use of F04

7

Citations in Caldrin's filings

The citations are a lead for further analysis. If Caldrin uses valid F04 claims and Merevale controls the US rights, there may be licensing value or a basis for a wider agreement. Citations alone do not show use.

Next: Map relevant Caldrin products to the claims, after resolving F04 title.

04 · COST

Review discontinued-product patents

£25k

Estimated annual renewal and attorney cost

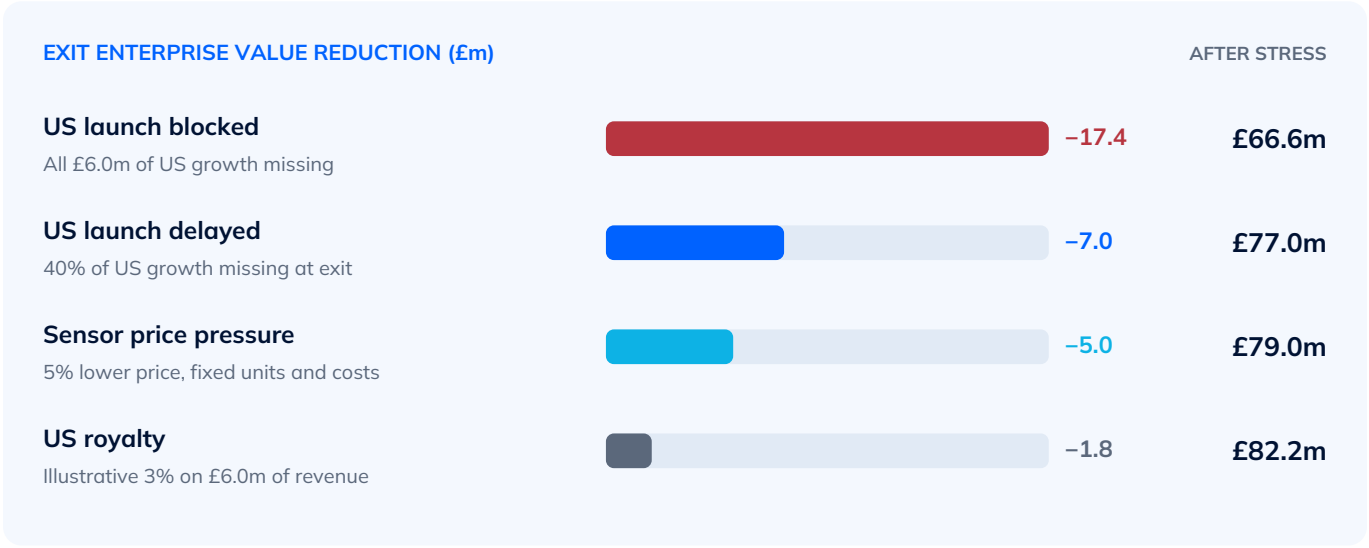
Three live families relate to products listed as discontinued. The estimate uses renewal fees and assumed attorney costs. Discontinued products can still leave licensing value or useful defensive rights.

Next: Check the actual spend and remaining uses, then retain, license or allow rights to lapse.

VALUE SENSITIVITIES

Which answers matter most to the model?

The illustrative buyer model gives FY29 EBITDA of £8.4m and a 10.0x exit multiple. That implies £84.0m of exit enterprise value. The scenarios below are separate stresses, not forecasts. [P01]



Calculation assumptions

Stress	FY29 EBITDA reduction	EV reduction
US blocked	£6.0m × 29% = £1.74m	£17.4m
US delayed	£2.4m × 29% = £0.70m, rounded	£7.0m
Sensor price	5% × £10.0m sensor sales = £0.50m	£5.0m
US royalty	3% × £6.0m US revenue = £0.18m	£1.8m

29% is the rounded group incremental EBITDA margin: (£8.4m – £4.5m) ÷ (£36.0m – £22.5m). It is an assumed proxy for lost US sales, not a verified US contribution margin. EV reduction = EBITDA reduction × 10.0.

£2.9m
EV sensitivity per £1m of missing US revenue at the assumed margin

£1.0m
EV sensitivity per £0.1m of recurring annual royalty

HOW TO USE THE NUMBERS

Keep the cases separate and use them to prioritise diligence. These are model stresses, not price deductions. A clearance opinion does not secure the forecast.

FIRST MEETING

Eight questions for the first conversation

Proceed to first contact. Keep the US growth case conditional until the launch route and application strategy have been assessed. Establish the software rights alongside them.

#	Question	Evidence to request	Warning sign
1	Has the final v4 design been reviewed against Caldrin and other relevant US patents?	Dated scope and conclusions, including any design changes	No review, or reliance on Merevale's own patents
2	What is the response plan for the initial F11 claim rejection?	Claims aimed at v4, with a credible response strategy	No plan, or claims moving away from the product
3	What rights does Merevale hold in Brightline's code?	Executed assignment or sufficient durable licence	Only invoices, with no clear rights provisions
4	How did F04 transfer from Merevale Sensors?	Executed documents and a complete title chain	No transfer evidence or unresolved dissolution issue
5	What do the university agreements allow?	Current ownership, licence and transaction terms	Material restrictions or required consent unresolved
6	Who leads calibration, and can the method be repeated?	Technical records and trained cover	Undocumented dependence on an individual
7	Can customer data be used across customers to train models?	Permissions covering the proposed use	Terms silent or limited to one customer
8	Has Merevale elected into Patent Box?	Election status and qualifying-profit analysis	No assessment despite potentially relevant patents

If a material issue remains

PRICE

Revisit US growth assumptions and the timing of returns.

CONDITIONS

Require evidence and remediation of essential rights before completion.

PROTECTION

Discuss targeted contractual protection for identified risks with counsel.

CAPITAL

Tie rollout funding to an agreed US review and launch decision.

WHERE THE SCREEN FITS

An IP view before first contact

Run the screen between origination and the first meeting. The IP research uses public information and needs no documents from the target.

01
Origination
Target, investment case and priority markets

02
Public-source screen
IP findings, questions and potential opportunities

03
First meeting
Test the issues that could affect the plan

04
Data room
Verify rights and focus technical and legal diligence

05
Offer and completion
Reflect findings in price, conditions and protections

06
Ownership
Address open issues and plan for the next exit

Public information can show

Patent status, territories and expiry
Claims, examination files and citations
Recorded applicants, owners and inventors
Public products and regulatory exhibits
Competitor activity, profiles and accounts

The company must confirm

Contracts, assignments and licences
Source code and software components
Customer data permissions
Know-how, records and staff continuity
Unpublished filings and actual financial plans

What you receive

A short assessment of the investment case, ranked findings, first-meeting questions and potential opportunities. Where a buyer model is available, sensitivities show which issues could matter most to value.

TO COMMISSION A SCREEN

Send the target name and website, your investment case and the markets that matter. A buyer model is useful for financial sensitivities, but is not required for the IP screen.

Scope, delivery date and fee are agreed before work starts.

SOURCES AND SCOPE

Public evidence, with clear limits

P01 is illustrative buyer material. P02 to P10 represent public sources. All sample records, entities and financial figures are fictional. The general references below describe real principles.

Ref	Sample source	Use in this report
P01	Buyer origination note and model	FY26 estimates, FY29 plan and exit multiple
P02	UK, European and US patent registers	Status, territories, expiry and inventor records
P03	Public examination files	F11 initial rejection and examiner citations
P04	Patent assignment records	Recorded ownership and title checks
P05	Companies House and filed accounts	Dissolution record and published financial data
P06	Target website and product literature	Datasheets, launch material, discontinued products
P07	US FCC authorisation record	Public v4 manual and product photos
P08	Competitor patents and catalogues	Caldrin, Veyra and Orren records
P09	Public research funding records	University collaboration
P10	Third-party sites and profiles	Agency case study and inventor role change

Scope. The screen identifies questions to investigate. It does not establish infringement, validity, freedom to operate, enforceability or ownership, and is not a valuation. Simplified technical comparisons need specialist review. Public records can be incomplete or out of date. Financial stresses are illustrative buyer assumptions.

GENERAL REFERENCES

G1 UK IPO · Copyright ownership
G2 Patents Act 1977 · Section 36, co-ownership
G3 UK IPO · Patent publication
G4 FCC · KDB 726920, confidentiality of authorisation exhibits
G5 HMRC · Patent Box
G6 Companies Act 2006 · Section 1012, dissolved-company property

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