Architect Partners

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PERSPECTIVES by Eric F. Risley

Architect Partners has tracked, analyzed and maintained a record of every M&A (and financing) transaction since the inception of the crypto industry. This helps us and our clients separate what we like to call "handwavy narrative" from reality-backed, data-derived evidence.

This week we look back in history to better understand what it's telling us about today and help us consider what is likely to happen tomorrow. The past nineteen months have revealed several strategic themes that are likely to persist and will influence the future of our industry. The data comes from each of our 81 published weekly M&A Snapshot reports since January 1, 2025. We analyzed each specific transaction announced during the time period and the published perspectives that accompanied each report. Keep in mind M&A is a manifestation of strategy, real action, not simply ideas and intentions. Lessons learned include:

- Stablecoins and Crypto Payments was the leading strategic theme, the topic of 21% of weekly perspectives, reflecting multiple historically important M&A transactions. We are at the very beginning of this trend.
- Market Conditions and Capital Market Activity was the second most prevalent, not surprisingly, with rather volatile and downward-trending crypto market conditions somewhat offset by several bellwether IPOs.
- Tokenization, Broker and Exchange Consolidation, and Regulation were all close behind; each is an important and persistent trend with far more ahead of it.
- Fourth was the curious phenomenon of Digital Asset Treasuries (DATs) and the predictable and not yet resolved failure of the model as practiced today.

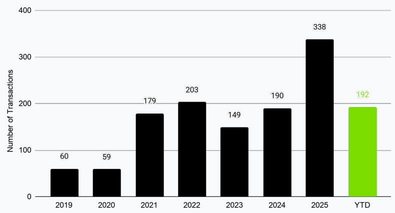
Interrelated was the significant increase in prevalence of what we call "bridge transactions": traditional finance | payments and crypto becoming one. The simple rationale is new technology meets real-world use. Traditional finance and payments businesses have the latter, and "crypto" must access these use cases and users to thrive in the future.

RECENT CRYPTO M&A TRANSACTIONS (click here for full AP M&A Tracker)

Target	Acquirer	Transaction Summary	M&A Alert
12.5MW Mining Facility (Prosser, NE)	FORTITUDE MINING	**Transaction Value:** $6.25M **Rationale:** To convert hosted capacity into owned low-cost megawatts for Zcash mining **Sector:** Mining & Staking **Target Description:** Operational 12.5MW digital asset mining facility with on-site substation and low-cost power	○
OpenFX	GLOBAL LEDGER	**Transaction Value:** Not disclosed **Rationale:** To launch multi-currency accounts as the second pillar of its Embedded FX strategy **Sector:** Payments Infrastructure **Target Description:** Multi-currency account infrastructure built on stablecoin rails for cross-border businesses	○
UNIVERSAL DIGITAL	pQCee Be . Quantum . Ready	**Transaction Value:** Not disclosed **Rationale:** To change the listed business from digital-asset investing to post-quantum cybersecurity **Sector:** Enterprise Solutions **Target Description:** Post-quantum cybersecurity software spanning encryption and cryptographic governance	○

OVERALL CRYPTO M&A ACTIVITY LEVELS

Past Eight Years



Past 52 Weeks