

Engagement Overview

Fixed-fee, operator-led AI and technology advisory for PE-backed portfolio companies. Every engagement is delivered personally — no junior team, no handoffs.

Most portfolio companies don't need more AI strategy. They need someone who can tell leadership which initiatives are worth pursuing and how to actually deliver them. That's what these engagements are built to do.

Engagement Types

Engagement	What's Included	Investment
AI Value Assessment + 30/60/90 Plan	Discovery interviews, stakeholder sessions, opportunity prioritization, and a board-ready 30/60/90 execution plan with owners, KPIs, and sequencing. Delivered to the CEO and PE sponsor.	\$65K – \$75K <i>All-in, expenses included</i> <i>Typical duration: 3–4 weeks</i>
Pre-Investment Technical Diligence	Architecture review, AI and data readiness, delivery capability, technical debt assessment, vendor risk, and scalability ahead of platform or add-on investment decisions.	\$40K – \$50K <i>All-in, expenses included</i> <i>Typical duration: 2–3 weeks</i>
Operating Partner Advisory	Ongoing senior technical advisor to the PE firm. Portfolio-wide AI strategy, diligence support, board-level technology briefings, and portfolio company executive advisory.	\$12K – \$15K/mo <i>All-in, expenses included</i> <i>Monthly retainer, no minimum term</i>
Fractional / Interim CTO	Senior technology leadership for portfolio companies without a CTO or requiring executive-level technical judgment during transition, growth, or recovery.	Scoped on engagement <i>All-in, expenses included</i> <i>Based on scope and time commitment</i>

All engagements include travel and expenses. No surprise invoices.

What to expect

- A prioritized, executable plan — not a strategy deck
- Direct access to a senior operator throughout the engagement
- Work product the CEO and board can act on immediately
- Clear initiative ownership and measurable success criteria
- No recommendations without understanding the business context
- No fake urgency, no consulting theater

Why fixed fee

- You're buying an outcome, not hours
- No meter-running or scope-creep incentive
- Predictable cost for the sponsor and portfolio company
- Aligned incentive — faster, sharper execution benefits both sides
- Easier to approve and administer at the fund level
- All-in pricing removes expense reconciliation friction

About 501 Group

501 Group is an operator-led AI and technology advisory practice founded by Christopher Butters, a senior technology executive with two decades of experience scaling AI, data, cloud, and engineering organizations.

Currently serving as a board member of a PE-backed chemical sciences company, where the engagement began as an AI execution advisory.

Credentials

- Senior operator — not a junior consulting team
- Board-level experience across PE-backed companies
- AI, data, cloud, and engineering leadership
- E&O; coverage in place
- NDA available on request
- US-based

Ready to discuss a portfolio company?

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