



Malt Tech Trends report shows surge in demand for independent experts with Agentic AI skills

25th May, 2026 - Exclusive new data from Malt, Europe's largest freelance management platform, shows how AI is completely reshaping the market for enterprise businesses, SMEs, and freelancers alike.

Malt's Tech Trends 2026 report has revealed that business demand for Agentic AI expertise is exploding, with a **5,800% increase** in companies across the UK and Europe searching for freelancers with those specific skills in the past year.

Malt's Tech Trends report analyses data from 2.5 million keyword searches, the profiles of more than 950,000 freelancers on the Malt platform, and requests and projects conducted by more than 90,000 companies.

Malt's data demonstrates that a fundamental shift is happening in how businesses and workers perceive and are looking to use AI. Supply for freelancers with AI Agent as a core skill they can deliver has also increased by 2,400%.

AI-related skills are also shown to be spreading across all professions, from digital infrastructure and cybersecurity, to marketing, design, and consulting. In **22% of non-tech briefs** on Malt, AI is now a prerequisite for project attribution.

Other key findings from the report include:

- **AI becoming the second most demanded skill on Malt**, with Wordpress remaining the most requested.
- **More than 50% of cybersecurity projects** commissioned on Malt now concern Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) as AI disrupts the cybersecurity sector.
- Demand for **AI governance has also soared by +380%** in just one year.

Vincent Huguet, CEO and co-founder of Malt, said:

"We are witnessing a historic shift in value within the digital economy. For twenty years, companies primarily valued the ability to produce software. Now, the critical skill is the ability to orchestrate intelligence, whether human, software, or artificial, at scale."



Freelancers play a central role in this transformation, as they are often the first to develop the new expertise that companies will need tomorrow,"

About Malt

Malt is Europe's leading freelance management platform. More than 90,000 companies of all sizes source, contract and manage external talents from Malt's community of more than 950,000 highly qualified independent experts across every field - from tech & data to marketing and communication, to management consulting. Finding the right freelancer takes just seconds with Malt AI Search, contracting and payment are seamless, with built-in reporting and compliance, making Malt an end-to-end solution for freelance management.

Press contact

Peter Jackson Eastwood
Corporate Communications Partner, UK
peter.eastwood@malt.com | 07447911745