SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

SMART MONEY MEDIA

AI Authority Report

Generated by the Smart Money Media Authority Audit

Meridian Ridge Analytics

meridianridgeanalytics.example

Meridian Ridge Analytics is a fictional company. Findings and data in this sample are simulated solely to demonstrate the format and depth of the Smart Money Media Authority Audit. Actual reports use live public data and vary by company.

AUTHORITY SCORE

38 / 100

Measured visibility band: Low measured visibility

8 of 8 signals measured

The Authority Score is a proprietary Smart Money Media internal composite of the weighted signals listed in this report. It is not an industry-standard rating, a certification, or a third-party assessment.

Scan date: 2026-09-30

Report ID: AUTHORITY-MERIDIANRIDG-20260930

Prepared by the Smart Money Media Team

Confidential - prepared for Meridian Ridge Analytics. Findings reflect the prompts and sources listed in this report; results can vary.

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Executive dashboard

Measured visibility band: Low measured visibility

8 of 8 signals measured

Critical: AI named the brand inconsistently in the prompts tested.

When a buyer asks ChatGPT, Perplexity, Google AI Overviews, or Gemini for a recommendation in your category, Meridian Ridge Analytics is not consistently present in the answer.

AUTHORITY CITATIONS

0

Critical Gap - measured zero

Scored 0 of 15. This is a measurement, not missing data.

STRONGEST SIGNAL

Website Schema

Strength

9 / 10

Weighted signals grouped by state

Status key: Critical Gap (under 30% of the signal maximum) - Needs Attention (30-69%) - Strength (70% or above).

Strengths (1)

Website Schema 9/10

Strength (90% of maximum)

Needs attention (5)

AI Search Visibility 10/20

Needs Attention (50% of maximum)

Media Mentions 9/20

Needs Attention (45% of maximum)

News Presence 3/10

Needs Attention (30% of maximum)

Social Proof Signals 3/5

Needs Attention (60% of maximum)

Review Reputation 2/5

Needs Attention (40% of maximum)

Critical gaps (2)

Authority Citations 0/15

Critical Gap (0% of maximum)

Press Release Distribution 4/15

Critical Gap (27% of maximum)

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Priority actions

These are the three actions the measured evidence supports sequencing first. They are recommendations, not guarantees of a ranking or citation outcome.

1. Earn editorial coverage in the manufacturing and private-equity trade outlets that AI engines already cite for this category

Authority Citations scored 0 of 15 (0%).

Recommended action: Earn citations from the reference and industry sources that appear in AI answers for your buyer prompts.

2. Publish a canonical entity record (Organization schema, consistent founding facts, leadership and service lines) and align it across every profile engines read

Press Release Distribution scored 4 of 15 (27%).

Recommended action: Strengthen this signal with verifiable third-party evidence rather than self-published claims.

3. Turn the annual benchmark study into a citation-ready asset with a named methodology, dated figures and a stable URL

News Presence scored 3 of 10 (30%).

Recommended action: Establish a steady cadence of newsworthy, quotable material so news indexes carry your brand continuously.

Report guide and scan scope

This report prints every normalized user-facing field the audit retained for this scan. Sections the scan could not return are identified as unmeasured; they are never presented as a score of zero. LLM results are point-in-time observations for the prompts listed in this report, not universal claims about any engine.

The chapters that follow set out the evidence behind this dashboard: what was measured, what was not returned, and which gaps the evidence supports acting on first.

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

CH 1	Executive diagnosis and weighted signals
CH 2	Five-LLM visibility, captured answers and share of voice
CH 3	Search, SERP, AI Overview, reputation and zero-click findings
CH 4	Crawler and entity readiness, backlink and rank findings
CH 5	Qualified search opportunity and citation evidence
CH 6	Recommendations and six-month authority roadmap
APP A	Methodology and limitations
APP C	Evidence and source references

Company
Meridian Ridge Analytics

Website
meridianridgeanalytics.example

Scan date
2026-09-30

Report ID
AUTHORITY-MERIDIANRIDG-20260930

CHAPTER 1

Executive diagnosis and weighted signals

How the overall score was reached and what each weighted signal contributed.

Score, tier, verdict and coverage

Authority Score	38 / 100
Measured visibility band	Low measured visibility
Coverage	8 of 8 signals measured

The Authority Score is a proprietary Smart Money Media internal composite of the weighted signals listed in this report. It is not an industry-standard rating, a certification, or a third-party assessment.

The brand already has a meaningful organic footprint, which gives AI systems more confidence when assembling brand knowledge.

Executive summary points

- Meridian Ridge Analytics scores 38/100 - Low measured visibility in the prompts and sources tested. Prospects can find the brand if they already know the name. They will not find enough trusted third-party evidence to feel confident choosing it. Authority citations are the largest measured gap in this scan. Findings use publicly observable and third-party data; normalized and modelled values are identified where used. Findings reflect the prompts and sources listed in this report; results can vary.
- Strongest signal: website schema (9/10). One trust layer is the strongest measured foundation. The strategy below is about compounding it - not starting from zero - which is the priority path to a defensible category position.
- Largest measured authority gap: authority citations (0/15). Until this gap closes, AI engines may favor whichever competitor has stronger third-party validation.

Diagnostic findings

- No consistent presence in authoritative publications.
- There are not enough tier-1 publication citations anchoring authority.
- Review authority is not being carried clearly into the AI/search evidence layer.

Priority gaps

Signal	Score
Authority Citations	0%
Press Release Distribution	27%
News Presence	30%

Critical finding

The Issue Blocking Trust

When a buyer asks ChatGPT, Perplexity, Google AI Overviews, or Gemini for a recommendation in your category, Meridian Ridge Analytics is not consistently present in the answer. A competitor that is named may gain visibility in that decision moment. This is not a marketing problem. It is a discoverability gap in the prompts measured.

- The brand was named in some tested answers but not consistently, so buyers researching independently may not encounter it.

- The brand appeared in some recorded answers but was not consistently present or supported by citations.
- No verified third-party mentions were returned in the sources tested, limiting the independent evidence available in this scan.

What the scan proved

Check	Value	Note
AI recognition	Weak or missing	If AI cannot confidently identify the brand, third-party support was limited in the sources tested.
Verified third-party mentions	0	No verified third-party mentions means the scan returned limited independent corroboration.
Supporting demand signal	318 keywords / 0 branded searches	We use this as supporting evidence for how much discoverable brand proof exists when prospects or AI systems look for you - not as the main authority score driver.

Low measured visibility in the prompts and sources tested

Authority citations were the largest measured gap in this scan, and the sources tested returned limited independent corroboration.

Opportunity. Your priority path upward is to compound the credibility you already have in website schema and turn it into broader third-party authority.

Weighted signal scorecard

Signal	Score	Max	Share	Status
AI Search Visibility	10	20	50%	Needs Attention
Media Mentions	9	20	45%	Needs Attention
Authority Citations	0	15	0%	Critical Gap
Press Release Distribution	4	15	27%	Critical Gap
News Presence	3	10	30%	Needs Attention
Website Schema	9	10	90%	Strength

Signal	Score	Max	Share	Status
Social Proof Signals	3	5	60%	Needs Attention
Review Reputation	2	5	40%	Needs Attention

Weighted signal coverage: 8 of 8 signals measured.

Each signal is scored against its own maximum weighting and summed to the 0-100 headline score. In this Smart Money Media methodology, third-party verifiable evidence is weighted more heavily than self-published claims.

A measured signal may legitimately score zero. An unmeasured signal is excluded and is never treated as zero.

Status key: Critical Gap (under 30% of the signal maximum) - Needs Attention (30-69%) - Strength (70% or above).

Full signal insight

- AI Search Visibility (10/20). The brand appeared in some tested answers, but citation support was inconsistent. Earned third-party coverage would build the evidence base over the six-month roadmap.
- Media Mentions (9/20). Some coverage exists but not enough for AI to build a reliable picture of your authority.
- Authority Citations (0/15). No tier-1 publication mentions were found. Coverage in outlets like these is one of the third-party signals AI answers draw on.
- Press Release Distribution (4/15). No press releases on major wires. These create the indexable, authoritative backlinks that provide discoverable third-party corroboration.
- News Presence (3/10). No recent news coverage detected. News signals freshness and relevance to AI engines.
- Website Schema (9/10). Well-structured data makes it easy for AI engines to accurately describe your business.
- Social Proof Signals (3/5). Some social proof detected. Adding more trust indicators strengthens your overall authority.
- Review Reputation (2/5). Review signals are present but not consistently reinforced across the sources AI can parse.

CHAPTER 2

Five-LLM visibility, captured answers and share of voice

Prompt-by-prompt results for the prompts issued to the five supported answer engines.

Five-engine visibility matrix and captured answers

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Engine	Test	Result	Prompts	Mentions	Citations
ChatGPT	Buyer-prompt visibility	Named in 5 of 12 tested buyer prompts	12	5	2
Gemini	Buyer-prompt visibility	Named in 3 of 12 tested buyer prompts	12	3	1
Claude	Buyer-prompt visibility	Named in 2 of 12 tested buyer prompts	12	2	0
Perplexity	Buyer-prompt visibility	Named in 1 of 12 tested buyer prompts	12	1	3
Grok	Buyer-prompt visibility	Not named in 12 tested buyer prompts	12	0	0

Scope: this audit tests five supported answer engines - ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Perplexity and Grok. It is not a census of every language model.

LLM results are point-in-time observations for the prompts listed here and the scan date shown; they are not universal claims about any engine. Results can vary by prompt, model version, API versus consumer interface, geography, personalization, caching and platform changes.

Cross-probe engine evidence

Engine	Direct recognition	Recommendation test	Citation test
ChatGPT	Recognized in direct brand query	Not named in recommendation test	2 citations in tested buyer answers
Gemini	Recognized in direct brand query	Not named in recommendation test	1 citation in tested buyer answers
Claude	No direct-query result	Not named in recommendation test	No citations in tested buyer answers
Perplexity	Recognized in direct brand query	Not named in recommendation test	3 citations in tested buyer answers
Grok	No direct-query result	Not named in recommendation test	No citations in tested buyer answers

Source: Live unbranded buyer prompts issued to each answer engine at scan time.

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Captured answers in full

ChatGPT

Answer captured

Mentioned - provider OpenAI

Meridian Ridge Analytics appears to be a consulting firm working with mid-market companies. I do not have reliable third-party sources describing its client work, so I cannot confirm specifics about its track record.

Gemini

Answer captured

Mentioned - provider Google

I have limited verified information about Meridian Ridge Analytics. Publicly available material is largely from the firm's own website rather than independent coverage.

Claude

No answer captured

Mentioned

No verbatim response was captured for this engine during this scan.

Perplexity

Answer captured

Mentioned - provider Perplexity

Sources for Meridian Ridge Analytics are mostly self-published. Independent coverage is sparse compared with other advisory firms in the same category.

Grok

No answer captured

Absent

No verbatim response was captured for this engine during this scan.

Prompt methodology and every sample prompt

12 unbranded buyer prompts were issued to 5 engines, producing 60 answers and 11 brand mentions (18% of answers).

- "best independent advisory firm for mid-market manufacturers"
- "who should I hire for an operational turnaround review"
- "most credible advisory firms for private equity portfolio companies"
- "advisory firms with published methodology"

- "which firms benchmark plant performance for mid-market manufacturers"
- "who publishes credible operations benchmark research for manufacturers"

Direct brand/entity recognition test

Overall sentiment	neutral
Described as	a small regional advisory firm
Category correct	Yes

- Engines describe the firm regionally when its stated market is national.
- Two engines omit the benchmarking practice, the firm's most distinctive service line.
- One engine gives an outdated founding year that does not match the firm's own records.

Engine	Sentiment	Summary
ChatGPT	neutral	Describes the firm accurately but hedges on scale.
Gemini	neutral	Knows the firm exists; cannot name clients or sectors.

Recommendation test

Verdict	Invisible
Headline	Meridian Ridge Analytics does not appear when AI engines recommend mid-market operations advisory firms.
Brand appears	No
Rank in answer	Not named
Sample query	who are the most credible advisory firms for mid-market manufacturers

Rank	Brand named by the engine
1	Harbourline Partners
2	Kestrel Advisory Group

Rank	Brand named by the engine
3	Bright Ridge Consulting
4	Ashcombe Operating Partners
5	Falcon Street Advisors
6	Lowmoor Strategy Co.

AI share of voice

Brand	Mentions	Share
Harbourline Partners	38	31%
Kestrel Advisory Group	27	22%
Bright Ridge Consulting	21	17%
Ashcombe Operating Partners	14	12%
Meridian Ridge Analytics (you)	11	9%
Falcon Street Advisors	11	9%

Based on 12 unbranded prompts across 5 engines. Share of voice counts brand mentions in answers, not sentiment.

Source: Live unbranded buyer prompts issued to each answer engine at scan time.

CHAPTER 3

Search, SERP, AI Overview, reputation and zero-click findings

What the public search surfaces returned for this brand at the time of the scan.

Branded SERP control

Query	Meridian Ridge Analytics
Results analysed	10
Owned results	3 (30%)

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Third-party results	5
Review platforms	2
Negative results	1 negative

#	Domain	Category	Owned	Negative
1	meridianridgeanalytics.example	Owned site	Owned	No negative flag
2	linkedin.com	Social profile	Third party	No negative flag
3	meridianridgeanalytics.example	Owned site	Owned	No negative flag
4	trustpilot.com	Review platform	Third party	No negative flag
5	glassdoor.com	Review platform	Third party	No negative flag
6	advisoryforum.example	Third-party page	Third party	Negative
10	meridianridgeanalytics.example	Owned site	Owned	No negative flag

Source: DataForSEO live organic SERP for the brand name, top 10 results classified.

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Google AI Overview

Query	best advisory firm for mid-market manufacturers
AI Overview present	Present
Your site cited	Not cited
Verdict	Not returned

Panel text: Several advisory firms specialise in mid-market manufacturing, typically focusing on operational turnaround, supply chain and post-merger integration.

Every source referenced in the panel

1. How to choose an operational advisory partner
   https://manufacturing-trade-journal.example/-advisory-partner-guide
2. Mid-market manufacturing outlook
   https://supply-chain-quarterly.example/mid--market-outlook
3. Harbourline Partners case library
   https://harbourlinepartners.example/case--library
4. What PE sponsors expect from operations advisers
   https://pe-operations-review.example/-operations-advisers

Reputation risk, social surfaces and reviews

Reputation overview - Low reputation risk

No verified complaints, legal actions or negative press tied to this company were found in the sources checked.

Reputation risk	Low
Review presence	Established
Review sentiment	Positive
Evidence confidence	Verified

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Review footprint

Platform	Rating	Reviews	Source
Google	4.7	64	DataForSEO business listings
Clutch	4.8	21	Page structured data

Review themes (verified sample)

Positive themes	clear benchmarking data, senior-level attention, practical recommendations
Recurring concerns	project timelines ran longer than scoped (mild, 3 mentions)

Response and velocity

New reviews, last 30 days	3
Owner response rate	72%

Complaints, legal and negative press (verified only)

No verified complaints, legal actions or negative press tied to this company were found in the sources checked.

Off-site conversation

Total mentions	7
Negative mentions	2 negative
Reddit threads	4
YouTube videos	3

Surface	Item	Negative
Reddit	Has anyone worked with Meridian Ridge Analytics? Is it legit?	Negative

What this means

Reputation risk: Low

Risk is low and the verified footprint supports trust. Keep review velocity steady and respond on the record.

CHAPTER 4

Crawler and entity readiness, backlink and rank findings

Technical accessibility, entity signals and the DataForSEO backlink profile.

AI crawler access and entity readiness

Entity readiness

Verdict	partial
Signals present	4 of 6 measured
Weighted score	67%

Engines can partly resolve Meridian Ridge Analytics, but sampled commercial pages use inconsistent freshness signals.

Check	Present	Fix if missing
Organization schema	Present	Not applicable
Canonical URL hygiene	Present	Not applicable
Article/blog freshness markup	Present	Not applicable

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Check	Present	Fix if missing
Guide freshness markup	Present	Not applicable
Static-page freshness markup	Missing	Add WebPage or Service dateModified where a commercial page is materially updated.
Independent entity match	Missing	Align stable organization identifiers across authoritative profiles.

Content freshness sample

Article/blog freshness	Present (2 of 2 sampled)
Guide freshness	Present (1 of 1 sampled)
Static/service freshness	Partial (1 of 2 sampled)
Homepage dateModified	No
Confidence	Verified

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

1 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/

2 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-insights/benchmark-study
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-insights/benchmark-study

3 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-insights/supply-chain-outlook
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-insights/supply-chain-outlook

4 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-guides/operations-benchmarking
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/guides/-operations-benchmarking

5 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-services/operations-advisory
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-services/operations-advisory

6 https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/-about
https://meridianridgeanalytics.example/about

DataForSEO Rank and backlink profile

DataForSEO Rank (audit-normalized): 21 / 100

Internal audit band (based on normalized rank): Developing

Referring domains	87
Total backlinks	1,420
Dofollow backlinks	960
Broken backlinks	34 broken links detected
Link profile risk	Not returned

How to read this rank

DataForSEO's native backlink Rank uses a 0-1,000 scale. The 0-100 rank shown here is an internal presentation normalization applied by this audit (native rank divided by 10, then rounded and clamped). That divide-by-ten step is this audit's own method; it is not DataForSEO's optional official rank_scale=one_hundred conversion. The exact native value is not retained in the audit record, so it is not restated here. This metric is not Moz Domain Authority, Ahrefs Domain Rating or Semrush Authority Score, and is not directly comparable to them. The band is directional and assigned by this audit's own thresholds. It is not a DataForSEO band, and it does not predict AI citations, ranking gains, placement outcomes or timelines.

CHAPTER 5

Qualified search opportunity and citation evidence

Vetted commercial queries, measured rankings and citation evidence from this scan.

No sufficiently relevant commercial keyword gap was returned for this scan.

Search opportunity

Commercial comparison	harbourlinepartners.example
Qualification	verified

Vetted commercial query	Observed rank	Search demand / mo
operational turnaround consultant	3	2,400
manufacturing advisory firm	5	1,900
private equity portfolio operations partner	2	880
supply chain cost reduction consultant	7	1,300
post-merger integration advisory	4	1,100

Source: DataForSEO ranked-keyword intersection, top 20 organic positions.

Citation overlap with competitors

Verified coverage appears on three of nine observed sources. Existing coverage may not have been selected as a citation in this specific sample.

Domain	Brand mentions	Coverage status
manufacturing-trade-journal.example	0	Competitor-only source
pe-operations-review.example	0	Competitor-only source

Domain	Brand mentions	Coverage status
industry-association.example	1	Present on source; not observed as a citation in the tested answers
supply-chain-quarterly.example	0	Competitor-only source
business-daily.example	0	Competitor-only source
regional-business-journal.example	2	Present on source; not observed as a citation in the tested answers
advisory-directory.example	1	Present on source; not observed as a citation in the tested answers
cfo-insights.example	0	Competitor-only source

What this evidence supports doing

- Strongest measured foundation: Website Schema at 9 of 10. This is the signal the next phase of work can build on.
- Largest measured gap: Authority Citations at 0 of 15. This is where the evidence supports concentrating effort first.
- First move the evidence supports: Earn citations from the reference and industry sources that appear in AI answers for your buyer prompts.

CHAPTER 6

Recommendations and six-month authority roadmap

The recommended sequence of work over a six-month implementation horizon.

The findings above describe the current position. The priorities and roadmap below describe the work that would address them, in the order the evidence supports.

Recommended priorities

- Earn editorial coverage in the manufacturing and private-equity trade outlets that AI engines already cite for this category.
- Publish a canonical entity record (Organization schema, consistent founding facts, leadership and service lines) and align it across every profile engines read.
- Turn the annual benchmark study into a citation-ready asset with a named methodology, dated figures and a stable URL.
- Secure attributable expert commentary from the leadership team on operational turnaround and supply-chain cost questions.
- Build category comparison pages that answer the exact buyer prompts where competitors are named and Meridian Ridge is not.
- Consolidate review and directory profiles so third-party descriptions match the firm's stated national market.
- Add independent client evidence (named, permissioned case outcomes) that a model can attribute to a source other than the firm's own site.
- Re-measure the same prompt set on a fixed schedule so movement is judged over a 6-12 month horizon, not week to week.

Six-month authority roadmap - complete plan

A six-month implementation horizon. Each phase describes work and measurement checkpoints, not promised outcomes.

Month 1 - Baseline, entity clarification and technical correction

Make the brand machine-resolvable and correct the technical and entity gaps measured in this scan.

- Lock a measurement baseline across engines, prompts and search so every later change is attributable.
- Clarify the entity: canonical organisation record, named people, consistent identifiers across the properties engines read.
- Correct technical blockers found in this scan - structured data, crawler access, and canonical control of your own name.
- Agree the authority strategy against the weakest measured signals (Authority Citations, Press Release Distribution, News Presence).
- Stand up reporting so progress is reviewed on evidence, not impression.

Months 2-3 - Citation-ready evidence and editorial placement

Give engines third-party material they can verify and quote.

- Produce citation-ready content built around the buyer prompts tested in this report.
- Publish public evidence - data, methodology, named commentary - that a journalist or model can attribute.
- Pursue editorial placements in the outlets that already appear in AI answers for your category.
- Extend structured data to cover new evidence assets as they publish.
- Tighten internal linking so the new evidence pages are reachable from the service and guide pages buyers already visit.

Months 4-6 - Reinforcement, distribution and reputation

Compound the citation base and defend the ground already taken.

- Reinforce the citation base with follow-on placements and secondary pickup.
- Broaden distribution across the source types engines draw from in your category.
- Continue reputation work on review, community and branded-search surfaces.
- Monitor engine-level mentions, citations and share of voice on a fixed cadence.
- Adjust the program against measured movement rather than a fixed content quota.

Meaningful change should be evaluated over 6-12 months or longer; timing varies by starting position, execution, competition and platform changes. No ranking, citation, or result is guaranteed.

APPENDIX A

Methodology and limitations

Score arithmetic, data sources and the limitations that qualify every finding above.

Step-by-step calculation

Step	Value	Note

Step	Value	Note
Weighted average of measured signals	41/100	AI knowledge, media mentions and authority citations carry 1.5x weight - third-party evidence moves the number more than anything you publish about yourself.
Signals measured	8 of 8	Signals a provider could not measure are excluded from the denominator, never counted as zero.
Critical gaps (under 30% of max)	2	Three or more critical gaps would trigger a hard cap on the overall score.
Zero-signal penalty	-3	1 signal returned nothing at all. Zeros are penalised 3 points each (max 9) because absence is worse than weakness.
Final score	38/100	Tier: Low measured visibility.

A measured signal may legitimately score zero. An unmeasured signal is excluded and is never treated as zero.

Data sources

- We query 5 AI engines (ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, Perplexity, and Grok) with live prompts and capture the actual responses returned.
- We run a live crawl across 11 web-evidence categories for public coverage: tier-1 publications, PR wires, Wikipedia, Wikidata, and your website's structured data.
- We inspect the website directly for schema, metadata, and visible trust elements as supporting context.
- We measure search footprint and branded demand using live third-party search data as corroborating evidence, not the main score driver.

How the score is computed

- Each of the eight signals is scored against its own maximum weighting, then summed to the 0-100 headline score.
- Weightings reflect how heavily AI engines and search systems lean on each signal when deciding which brand to name - third-party evidence outweighs self-published claims.
- Signals that could not be measured during the scan are excluded from the denominator rather than counted as zero, so a provider outage cannot artificially deflate your score.
- Search footprint and branded demand are treated as corroborating evidence, not primary score drivers.

Limitations

- Scores reflect the AI engines' responses at scan time. As models, indexes, and training data change, results may change too.
- Some signals are verified directly, while others are directional estimates based on search and AI interpretation.
- Brand-name ambiguity, changing search results, and incomplete public coverage can affect accuracy.
- Use this report as a decision aid and evidence snapshot, not as a forensic or legal-grade audit.

Scope and disclosures

Critical Gap, Needs Attention and Strength are a Smart Money Media presentation convention for this internal audit, applied to each signal's percentage of its own maximum. They are not an industry standard or a vendor threshold, and they do not change how the score is calculated.

The Authority Score is a proprietary Smart Money Media internal composite of the weighted signals listed in this report. It is not an industry-standard rating, a certification, or a third-party assessment.

LLM results are point-in-time observations for the prompts listed here and the scan date shown; they are not universal claims about any engine. Results can vary by prompt, model version, API versus consumer interface, geography, personalization, caching and platform changes.

Findings use publicly observable and third-party data; normalized and modelled values are identified where used.

Smart Money Media prepared this audit and offers services related to these recommendations. Findings are based on the methodology and sources shown.

Not returned for this scan (2)

Zero-click exposure; Third-party checks and receipts. This section is unavailable data, not a failing result. It is excluded from the score rather than counted as zero.

Appendix C - Evidence and source references

Principal source references captured during this scan are listed below. Complete provider receipts remain available in the internal audit record.

1. How to choose an operational advisory partner
   https://manufacturing-trade-journal.example/-advisory-partner-guide
2. Mid-market manufacturing outlook
   https://supply-chain-quarterly.example/mid--market-outlook
3. Harbourline Partners case library
   https://harbourlinepartners.example/case--library
4. What PE sponsors expect from operations advisers
   https://pe-operations-review.example/-operations-advisers
5. Has anyone worked with Meridian Ridge Analytics? Is it legit?
   https://forum.example/thread-1
6. Meridian Ridge vs Harbourline for a plant benchmarking project
   https://forum.example/thread-2
7. Meridian Ridge Analytics published a decent benchmark report
   https://forum.example/thread-4
8. Meridian Ridge Analytics case study walkthrough
   https://video.example/watch-1

SAMPLE — Illustrative Data

Turn These Findings Into a Six-Month Authority Program

The Smart Money Media team can walk through the measured gaps for Meridian Ridge Analytics, what the evidence in this report supports, and what a six-month authority program would prioritize.

Entity clarity

Consistent, machine-resolvable identity: schema, profiles and naming that let engines confirm who you are.

Third-party evidence and editorial authority

Independent coverage and citable references in the sources engines already draw on.

Answer-ready content

Pages structured so an engine can quote a specific, attributable answer to a buyer question.

Measurement and re-auditing

Repeat audits against this baseline so change is observed against measured evidence, not assumed.

What a 30-minute review covers

- A walkthrough of the measured gaps in this report and what the evidence supports.
- The two or three areas we would sequence first, and why.
- What the first phase of work would involve, and how it would be measured.

Review My Results With Smart Money Media

smartmoneymedia.org/book-a-call

A working session with the Smart Money Media team. No obligation, and no result is guaranteed.

Meaningful change should be evaluated over 6-12 months or longer; timing varies by starting position, execution, competition and platform changes. No ranking, citation, or result is guaranteed.

Prepared by the Smart Money Media Team - Report AUTHORITY-MERIDIANRIDG-20260930