# IonQ's shares jump 16% after UK approval for Oxford Ionics deal, boosting quantum ambitions



IonQ's stock surged by 16% following the company securing regulatory approval from the UK Investment Security Unit (ISU) for its acquisition of Oxford Ionics, marking a significant milestone in its expansion efforts within the quantum computing sector. This approval, which satisfies all deal conditions, clears the final hurdle before IonQ can complete the purchase of the UK-based firm, allowing the transaction to close imminently. The acquisition is expected to bolster IonQ’s technological prowess and broaden its footprint in the fast-evolving quantum computing market.

The deal, valued at approximately $1.08 billion in a combination of cash and stock, was first announced in June 2025. By acquiring Oxford Ionics, IonQ gains access to pioneering trapped-ion quantum computing technology, renowned for its high fidelity and precise quantum operations hosted on semiconductor chips. This alignment with IonQ’s core focus on ion-trap technology is seen as a strategic enhancement of the company’s hardware capabilities. Oxford Ionics will maintain its UK-based hardware, staff, intellectual property, and manufacturing to comply with UK government conditions aimed at safeguarding national security, reflecting the strategic sensitivity now attributed to quantum computing technologies.

IonQ’s ambition is underscored by plans to develop quantum computers housing up to two million qubits by 2030, a scale that would propel innovation across a variety of sectors including drug discovery, materials science, financial modelling, logistics, cybersecurity, and defence. The acquisition of Oxford Ionics follows IonQ's recent purchases of Lightsynq, a quantum memory specialist, and the pending acquisition of Capella Space Corporation, further consolidating its position in the sector. IonQ's technology is currently utilised by leading clients such as Amazon Web Services, AstraZeneca, and NVIDIA, indicating commercial traction in addition to research advancements.

The UK government approval came with conditions requiring that Oxford Ionics’ critical quantum computing operations remain within British jurisdiction, highlighting concerns over foreign control of sensitive technologies with potential implications for national security. The UK’s decision under its National Security and Investment Act reflects a broader trend of governments scrutinising quantum computing investments carefully due to the technology’s relevance to secure communications and defence.

Industry stakeholders view IonQ’s move as a key step in the global race to commercialise quantum technology. Alongside competitors like Microsoft, Google, IBM, and Nvidia—each investing heavily in quantum research—Iraq’s acquisition strategy signals a push towards establishing a dominant position in the high-potential quantum computing market. Despite modest current revenues typical of the nascent industry, the promise of transformative applications ensures sustained investor interest and technological development momentum.

Overall, this acquisition and regulatory clearance represent a pivotal moment for IonQ as it continues to expand its technological base and market reach. As quantum computing advances from theoretical research toward practical utilisation, IonQ appears well positioned to influence the sector’s trajectory, provided it manages to meet the performance and security benchmarks demanded by both markets and regulators.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/ionq-stock-soars-after-securing-uk-regulatory-approval-for-acquisition-93CH-4237399), [[3]](https://www.investing.com/news/company-news/ionq-secures-uk-regulatory-approval-for-oxford-ionics-acquisition-93CH-4236857), [[7]](https://thequantuminsider.com/2025/09/12/uk-clears-ionq-acquisition-of-oxford-ionics-with-conditions/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[4]](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/06/09/ionq-quantum-computing-oxford-ionics.html), [[6]](https://oxfordcalling.co.uk/medicine/ionq-announces-agreement-to-acquire-oxford-ionics-accelerating-path-to-pioneering-breakthroughs-in-quantum-computing/), [[7]](https://thequantuminsider.com/2025/09/12/uk-clears-ionq-acquisition-of-oxford-ionics-with-conditions/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://investors.ionq.com/news/news-details/2025/IonQ-Secures-Regulatory-Approval-from-the-UK-Investment-Security-Unit-ISU-for-the-Acquisition-of-Oxford-Ionics/default.aspx), [[3]](https://www.investing.com/news/company-news/ionq-secures-uk-regulatory-approval-for-oxford-ionics-acquisition-93CH-4236857)
* Paragraph 4 – [[7]](https://thequantuminsider.com/2025/09/12/uk-clears-ionq-acquisition-of-oxford-ionics-with-conditions/), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/quantum-computing-firm-ionq-acquire-uk-based-oxford-ionics-108-billion-2025-06-09/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[4]](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/06/09/ionq-quantum-computing-oxford-ionics.html), [[5]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/quantum-computing-firm-ionq-acquire-uk-based-oxford-ionics-108-billion-2025-06-09/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/ionq-stock-soars-after-securing-uk-regulatory-approval-for-acquisition-93CH-4237399), [[2]](https://investors.ionq.com/news/news-details/2025/IonQ-Secures-Regulatory-Approval-from-the-UK-Investment-Security-Unit-ISU-for-the-Acquisition-of-Oxford-Ionics/default.aspx), [[3]](https://www.investing.com/news/company-news/ionq-secures-uk-regulatory-approval-for-oxford-ionics-acquisition-93CH-4236857)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.investing.com/news/stock-market-news/ionq-stock-soars-after-securing-uk-regulatory-approval-for-acquisition-93CH-4237399> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://investors.ionq.com/news/news-details/2025/IonQ-Secures-Regulatory-Approval-from-the-UK-Investment-Security-Unit-ISU-for-the-Acquisition-of-Oxford-Ionics/default.aspx> - IonQ, a leading commercial quantum computing and networking company, announced on September 12, 2025, that it has secured regulatory approval from the UK Investment Security Unit (ISU) for its acquisition of Oxford Ionics. The company stated that all conditions for the deal have been satisfied, paving the way for the transaction to close in the near term. This approval represents the final hurdle before IonQ can complete its purchase of the UK-based quantum computing firm. The acquisition is expected to enhance IonQ’s technological capabilities and expand its presence in the growing quantum computing sector. Oxford Ionics is known for its expertise in trapped-ion quantum computing technology, which aligns with IonQ’s core business focus. The combined entity plans to deliver quantum computers with 2 million qubits by 2030, aiming to accelerate innovation in various fields, including drug discovery, materials science, financial modeling, logistics, cybersecurity, and defense. The acquisition follows IonQ’s recent momentum in the quantum computing and networking space, including the acquisition of Lightsynq and the pending acquisition of Capella Space Corporation. The company is also recognized in Newsweek’s 2025 Excellence Index 1000 and Forbes’ 2025 Most Successful Mid-Cap Companies list. The press release includes forward-looking statements regarding IonQ’s technology roadmap and future plans, with a cautionary note about the risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied. The company’s media contact is press@ionq.co, and the investor contact is investors@ionq.co.
3. <https://www.investing.com/news/company-news/ionq-secures-uk-regulatory-approval-for-oxford-ionics-acquisition-93CH-4236857> - IonQ, a quantum computing company, announced on September 12, 2025, that it has received clearance from the UK Investment Security Unit for its acquisition of Oxford Ionics. The company stated that all conditions for the deal have been satisfied, with closing expected in the near future. This regulatory approval marks a significant step in IonQ’s expansion efforts in the quantum computing sector. Oxford Ionics, based in the United Kingdom, is known for its work in ion trap quantum computing technology. IonQ, which trades on the New York Stock Exchange, currently offers quantum computing systems including IonQ Forte and IonQ Forte Enterprise. The company states these systems are being utilized by customers such as Amazon Web Services, AstraZeneca, and NVIDIA. The acquisition of Oxford Ionics follows IonQ’s previous acquisitions of Qubitekk, Inc., Lightsync Technologies, Inc., Capella Space Corporation, and ID Quantique, SA. IonQ claims it is working toward delivering quantum computers with 2 million qubits by 2030, targeting applications in various fields including drug discovery, materials science, and financial modeling. The company’s announcement comes as quantum computing firms continue to compete for technological advancement and market position in this emerging sector.
4. <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/06/09/ionq-quantum-computing-oxford-ionics.html> - IonQ, a U.S.-based quantum computing firm, announced on June 9, 2025, that it will acquire British peer Oxford Ionics for $1.08 billion in a cash-and-stock deal expected to close in 2025. This acquisition aims to strengthen IonQ’s research capabilities in quantum computing, a field rapidly attracting significant investment from major tech firms including Microsoft, Google, and IBM. Quantum computers can perform complex calculations more efficiently than classical machines, largely due to their ability to predict outcomes simultaneously using qubits. Oxford Ionics is known for its innovative control methods for qubits, and its founders Chris Balance and Tom Harty will remain with IonQ post-acquisition. The number of shares IonQ will issue will depend on its stock price in the 20 days leading up to closing, ranging between $30.22 and $50.37 per share. Although companies like IonQ and Rigetti report modest revenues, quantum computing is considered vital for national security and holds promise in areas such as medical research and cybersecurity. This deal follows IonQ’s recent acquisition of quantum memory specialist Lightsynq, and complements broader industry moves, including Nvidia’s plans to open a quantum computing research lab. IonQ’s stock rose nearly 4% in premarket trading following the announcement.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/quantum-computing-firm-ionq-acquire-uk-based-oxford-ionics-108-billion-2025-06-09/> - IonQ, a U.S.-based quantum computing firm, announced on June 9, 2025, that it will acquire British peer Oxford Ionics for $1.08 billion in a cash-and-stock deal expected to close in 2025. This acquisition aims to strengthen IonQ’s research capabilities in quantum computing, a field rapidly attracting significant investment from major tech firms including Microsoft, Google, and IBM. Quantum computers can perform complex calculations more efficiently than classical machines, largely due to their ability to predict outcomes simultaneously using qubits. Oxford Ionics is known for its innovative control methods for qubits, and its founders Chris Balance and Tom Harty will remain with IonQ post-acquisition. The number of shares IonQ will issue will depend on its stock price in the 20 days leading up to closing, ranging between $30.22 and $50.37 per share. Although companies like IonQ and Rigetti report modest revenues, quantum computing is considered vital for national security and holds promise in areas such as medical research and cybersecurity. This deal follows IonQ’s recent acquisition of quantum memory specialist Lightsynq, and complements broader industry moves, including Nvidia’s plans to open a quantum computing research lab. IonQ’s stock rose nearly 4% in premarket trading following the announcement.
6. <https://oxfordcalling.co.uk/medicine/ionq-announces-agreement-to-acquire-oxford-ionics-accelerating-path-to-pioneering-breakthroughs-in-quantum-computing/> - IonQ and Oxford Ionics announced on June 9, 2025, that they have entered into a definitive agreement for IonQ to acquire Oxford Ionics in a transaction valued at $1.075 billion, consisting of $1.065 billion in shares of IonQ common stock and approximately $10 million in cash. IonQ is a leader in quantum computing and networking, developing high-performance systems based on trapped ion technology to help solve the world’s most complex commercial and research challenges. Oxford Ionics holds the current world records for fidelity, which measures the accuracy of quantum operations. The transaction will bring together IonQ’s quantum compute, application, and networking stack with Oxford Ionics’ groundbreaking ion-trap technology manufactured on standard semiconductor chips. The combined technologies are expected to deliver innovative, reliable quantum computers that increase in power, scale, and problem-solving capabilities.
7. <https://thequantuminsider.com/2025/09/12/uk-clears-ionq-acquisition-of-oxford-ionics-with-conditions/> - The UK government has approved IonQ’s acquisition of Oxford Ionics under the National Security and Investment Act, requiring that Oxford Ionics’ hardware and core operations remain in Britain. All trapped-ion hardware must be hosted in the UK for independent assessment, and the company’s staff, IP, and manufacturing capacity must stay domestic. The move shows quantum computing is now treated as strategically sensitive, with foreign investment welcome only under conditions that protect national security. The decision, announced by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster under the National Security and Investment Act 2021, allows IonQ to acquire 100% of Oxford Ionics’ shares. This approach is considered a promising modality for building large-scale quantum computers. Because the technology could underpin secure communications, advanced simulations, and future defense applications, the UK government reviewed the deal for national security risks. The acquisition was deemed a “trigger event” under the Act, which requires foreign takeovers of sensitive UK companies to be cleared by government. The review concluded that Oxford Ionics’ “leading role in developing cutting edge quantum computing capabilities” meant conditions were necessary to mitigate risks.