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Sunrise Beverages Agrees to Buy Northern Monk

The buyer plans to double the Leeds craft brewer’s production capacity by the end of 2028 after the deal closes

Thursday, November 26, 2026



Sunrise Beverages has agreed to buy the Leeds craft brewer Northern Monk in a deal aimed at expanding production and distribution in the British beer market, according to a report published by The Morning Advertiser on Thursday, November 26.

The report said Sunrise plans to double Northern Monk’s brewing capacity by the end of 2028 after the acquisition closes. That target implies a 100% increase from the current level, although the companies did not publish the installed capacity baseline in the

report. The purchase was expected to close before November 30.

The transaction would bring together two established names in Britain’s brewing sector at a time when scale, production funding and route-to-market expansion remain important issues for craft beer businesses. The stated purpose of the deal, according to the report, is to provide capital for more brewing capacity and to widen Northern Monk’s distribution.

Sunrise is a British brewing company that employed 153 people, the report said. Its Ashford brewery recorded £19.7 million in revenue in 2025, although that figure does not necessarily represent the full Sunrise group. Northern Monk, based in Leeds, is one of the better known names in British craft beer. It sold 50,600 hectoliters and generated £19.5 million in revenue in the 12 months through August 2026, according to the report. It employs about 140 people and operates six company-owned venues.

Those figures show Northern Monk as a sizeable independent craft brewer with both production and retail operations, but they do not reveal its installed brewing capacity. The Morning Advertiser report made clear that the 50,600 hectoliters figure reflects sales volume, not the plant capacity that Sunrise wants to expand. Because the companies did not disclose the physical production base, it is not possible to calculate how many additional hectoliters a doubling of capacity would represent.

Even so, the planned expansion gives a clear sign of the buyer’s intentions. A capacity increase of that size would go beyond a simple ownership change and point to an investment plan tied directly to production growth. For Northern Monk, the deal could provide financial backing for a larger brewing footprint and a broader presence in the market. For Sunrise, it would add a recognized craft brand with an existing sales base, a brewery in Leeds and a network of branded venues.

The purchase price was not disclosed in the report. No accessible primary company statement was immediately available, leaving The Morning Advertiser’s account and the comments it cited from both companies as the main public source on the agreement. That means key terms of the transaction, including valuation, financing structure and any integration timetable beyond the planned closing and 2028 capacity target, have not been made public.

The planned closing before November 30 also suggests the agreement was at an advanced stage when it was announced. Still, the acquisition remained pending completion on Thursday, November 26, and the expansion plan is prospective rather than completed. There was no indication in the report that the production increase had already begun.

The deal would strengthen Sunrise’s position in the UK beer market by adding a business with revenue close to that of its Ashford brewing operation. Based on the figures reported, Northern Monk’s £19.5 million in revenue in the 12 months through August 2026 was broadly similar to the £19.7 million posted by Sunrise’s Ashford brewery in 2025. That does not make the two businesses directly comparable, since the periods differ and Sunrise’s figure relates to a single brewery rather than necessarily the entire company, but it does show that the acquired brewer operates at a meaningful commercial scale.

Northern Monk has built a visible presence in the UK craft segment through both packaged beer and its own venues. Sunrise, by moving to acquire it, appears to be betting that more capacity and broader distribution can support further growth for the brand through 2028. Until fuller deal documents or a direct company announcement emerge, however, the central facts on the public record remain limited: Sunrise has agreed to buy Northern Monk, the parties expect to close before November 30, and the buyer wants to double the acquired brewery’s capacity by the end of 2028.