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Sent: Sunday, 11 October 2020 23:41
To: masonrathe@gmail.com
Subject: Austin Weekly Deal Highlights 10-11-20

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Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

By Mason Rathe



We'll look at what we have here, biotech company **Shattuck Labs** raised \$202M in its initial public offering on Friday, and gave Austin our 4th new public company this year, joining the ranks of **BigCommerce**, **VitalFarms**, and **Hyllion**. Best part about this is, from a SaaS ecommerce platform to an egg producer, these are very different companies. More and more, Austin is making the case for an increasingly diverse economy.

Alright folks, 23 days until the election and early voting begins in Texas on Tuesday. Let your voice be heard!

Austin Financing Activity

- [Shattuck Labs raised](#) \$202M in its initial public offering. The IPO was upsized by about 19% and priced above the expected range at \$17 a share, as the Texas-based biotechnology company focused on cancer treatments raised at a valuation of \$647.4M. Previously it raised \$164M in VC funding from investors including Fidelity (7.8% pre-IPO stake), Redmile Group (7.8%), and Hatteras Venture Partners.
- [HUVRdata](#), an enterprise asset management software company focusing on the industrial sector, [raised](#) a \$5M Series. **Cottonwood Venture Partners** led the round, with participation from **Wild Basin Investments**. To date, the company has raised \$7M.
- [Virdee](#), a contactless access and authentication experience for hotels, apartments, and office buildings, [closed](#) a \$2M seed round led by a group of strategic investors including former **La Quinta** President, **Rajiv Trivedi**.
- [Zenus](#), a facial analytic technology, [raised](#) \$1.195M from undisclosed investors.
- [Array](#), an app for operations and workflow automation processes, [raised](#) an undisclosed amount of seed funding from **Cortado Ventures**
- **Google For Startups Accelerator** [awarded](#) three Austin startups a total of \$200k. The startups chosen were Laundris Corp, Tankee, and Varuna Tech. [Laundris Corp](#) is a digital linen services company. [Tankee](#) is an on-demand mobile entertainment platform for gaming

content for children and their parents. [Varuna Tech](#) is a software platform that helps cities measure and analyze water quality.

Other Regional/Relevant Deal Activity

- **TPG Pace Tech Opportunities**, the tech focused SPAC launched by Fort Worth- and San Francisco-based **TPG** [completed](#) its \$450M IPO.
- Houston billionaire and owner of the Rockets Tilman Fertitta is [launching Lancadia Holdings](#), his third blank-check company that is expecting a \$500M IPO. The company plans to on investment opportunities in the tech, consumer, dining, hospitality, entertainment and gaming industries.
- The Woodlands-based [AEGIS Hedging Solutions](#), a platform for commodity and rate hedging markets, raised \$50M from undisclosed investors. To date, the company has raised \$60M.
- [Quorum Software](#), a Houston-based portfolio company of **Thoma Bravo**, [acquired Landdax](#), a Dallas-based provider of land management software, for an undisclosed amount.
- [Datagration Solutions Inc.](#), a Houston-based software provider that aggregates data to improve workflows and analytics at upstream oil and gas operators, [raised](#) \$11M in venture funding from **Quantum Energy Partners** and New York City-based **Global Reserve Group**.
- [SiteAware](#), a Houston-based A.I. construction verification software company, raised \$10M in Series A funding. **Axon Ventures** and **Robert Bosch Venture Capital** led the round and were joined by **Iool Ventures**, **Oryzn Ventures**, **The Flying Object** and **Power Capital Venture**.
- [Blue Duck Scooters](#), a San Antonio-based e-scooter company, [raised](#) approx. \$8M from angel investors. To date, the company has raised \$38M.
- Houston-based [SafePass](#) closes \$1.5M of funding from undisclosed investors while [entering](#) into a partnership with SAP National Security Services, the US national defense arm of SAP.
- Silicon Valley-based [Tanium](#), a management security platform with an secondary office in Addison, Texas, [raised](#) a \$150M Series G. Investors in this round include **Salesforce Ventures**, **TrueBridge Capital Partners** and **Fidelity Management & Research**. **T. Rowe Price** and **Baillie Gifford** also participated in the round. To date, the company has raised approx. \$840M.
- San Francisco-based [Dialpad](#), a business communications software platform with an Austin office, [raised](#) a \$100M Series E at a \$1.2B valuation with **OMERS Growth Equity** leading the round. To date, the company has raised \$220M.
- [Botisimo](#), a Dallas-based chatbot software developer, [raised](#) \$700k in its seed round from local software-focused operating partner Mason Bridge.
- The Dallas startups that were [chosen](#) for **Google for Startups Accelerator** for Black Founders were **Kanarys**, **Zirtue**, **ShearShare**, and **CourMed**. [Kanarysis](#) is a workplace culture improvement company. [Zirtue](#) is a relationship-based lending application. [ShearShare](#) is a company that allows hair stylists to rent sanitized salon suits, stations, or barber chairs by the day. [CourMed](#) is an enterprise software company focused on healthcare providers. The startups received \$300k from Google.

Austin People

- **Digital Pharmacist**, a SaaS platform to connect pharmacies with their patients, [announced](#) two new additions to its executive team. **John Barron** joins as the Senior Vice President of Strategy and Marketing, and comes with 25 years of experience, most notably with CVS. **Justin Squezello** joins as the Senior Vice President of Operations. Previously, Squezello held senior leadership roles at companies such as Pipedrive, IAC/Interactive, Dotdash, and Ziff Davis. The company was acquired for \$125M by **K1 Investment Management** last year, and previously raised approx. \$14M from investors including **LiveOak Venture Partners**.
- These were the top Austin tech and startup executive [hires and layoffs](#) for September.
- This is a list of [Austin Inno's 25 under 25](#) – a list of young innovators and leaders who have accomplished an exceptional amount in so little time.

Austin News

- [Everlywell](#), a provider of at-home testing kits including one for Covid, [is in talks](#) to raise new funding at a \$1 billion plus valuation, per Bloomberg.
- The top venture capital funding rounds for Austin tech startups in [September 2020](#)
- Austin chamber unveils its [A-List](#) of startups to watch
- Why tech innovators, startups [ditch Silicon Valley](#) for Austin
- 9 win [EY Entrepreneur Of The Year](#) awards for Central Texas
- Greater Austin Chamber [Announces](#) 2020 A-List Award Winners
- [The Austin State of Entrepreneurship](#). Hear some of Austin's most successful entrepreneurs share their wins and challenges
- Tesla files [plans to build](#) battery cells along with cars at \$1.1B Austin factory
- The U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration has [chosen](#) the University of Texas to house a new center focused on developing tools and techniques for predictive science, and awarded with \$16.5M in funding.
- Austin Board of Realtors [released a market report](#) for August 2020 that showed home sales increased by approx. 13% year over year and the median home price rose approx. 11%.
- [Hiller Measurements](#), a mission-critical test instrument designer, [received](#) a \$66M contract from the United States Marine Corps.
- According to the Austin Chamber of Commerce, a [record number of new jobs](#) have been added in Austin in 2020, despite a national economic downturn.

Thank you!

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Additional research and newsletter support provided by Dipesh Mehta

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