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Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

by Mason Rathe

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Looks like fall has finally arrived. It may have come later than the rest of the country, but we can't be good at everything (don't bring up the UT game...). Speaking of which, Austin-area VC investment is [on track](#) to reach a nearly 20 year high. The hot streak continues this week with notable raises from **Shipwell** and **Literati**. Go Astros!!

Austin Financing Activity

- [Shipwell](#), a software developer for supply chain manager, third-party logistics companies, and carriers, [raised](#) \$35M Series B led by **Georgian Partners** jointed by **Fifth Wall**, **Global Founders Capital**, **Box Group**, and **Aspect Ventures**. The company has raised \$47M to date.
- [Literati](#), a children's book subscription provider that curates selection, [announced](#) it raised \$12M Series A led by **Shasta Ventures** with participation from **Silverton Partners**, **Springdale Ventures**, and **Moonshots Capital**. Literati has raised \$15.3M to date.
- **Milestone Brands**, a premium spirits holding company that acquires and markets beverage startups, [raised](#) \$10.2M in equity funding. Its portfolio includes **Dulce Vida Spirits**, **American Born Whiskey & American Born Moonshine**, and **Naranja Orange Liqueur**.
- [Klaris](#), a provider of patient care and treatment analysis services, raised a [\\$6.4M](#) Series B led by **Omnimed Capital**

Austin M&A Activity

- Austin-based IT consulting firm, **Intersys Consulting**, was [acquired](#) by **ASGN Inc.** (NYSE: ASGN), a staffing management company, for \$67M in cash.

Other Relevant/Regional Deal Activity

- Plano-based data center provider [Aligned Energy](#) [received](#) \$495M of debt financing from **The Goldman Sachs Group**, **CPIB Credit Investments** and other undisclosed lenders.
- [WellAware Holdings](#), a San Antonio-based end-to-end solution for oilfield data collection, storage, visualization and decision analysis, raised [\\$12.9M](#) from **District 5 Investments**, **InCube Ventures** and other undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$75M to date.
- [Traxo](#), a Dallas-based traveller data aggregation platform, raised [\\$5.15M](#) of Series B venture funding from undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$16M from investors including **TripAdvisor**, **Thayer Ventures**, and **Advantage Capital Partners**.
- San Antonio-based **Mailgun**, an email infrastructure provider, [acquired](#) **Mailjet**, a Paris-based competitor that tracks marketing and transactional emails. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. **Mailgun** was acquired by PE investor **Thoma Bravo** in April of this year.
- **Trend Micro**, a Dallas-based cloud security provider, [acquired](#) **Cloud Conformity**, a service provider that implements best practices for **Amazon Web Services** and **Microsoft Azure** cloud deployments. Financial details were undisclosed.
- [Vascular Perfusion Solutions](#), a San Antonio-based Developer of medical devices designed to preserve and resuscitate vascularized organs, raised \$2.6M of seed funding from undisclosed investors.

Austin People

- **Zaz Floreani** has [joined](#) **Next Coast Ventures** as a principal. Floreani's previous experience includes serving as VP of Corporate Development at **Dropoff**, M&A for **Spredfast**, and

Austin News

- Austin-area VC investment is on [track](#) to reach a nearly 20 year high.
- [How](#) Austin has become a hub for female-led startups. Austin's women-led companies are growing quickly. Austin [ranked](#) #6 in a new study released by **Inc.**
- **OpCity** [Plans to Double in Size](#) adding 600 more employees. The **LiveOak Venture Partners** portfolio company was acquired by **Move Inc.**, which operates **Realtor.com**, last year for \$210M.
- **Springdale Ventures**, a local CPG-focused venture firm, is [expanding](#) its first fund from \$20M to \$25M. The firm was founded by **Dan Graham** and **Genevieve Gilbreath** in early 2019. The firm has invested in 8 companies to date, and 7 are in Central Texas.
- Austin's fastest-growing companies; [2019 Fast 50 rankings](#)
- **Sumo Logic** [In Talks](#) To Acquire Cybersecurity Startup **JASK**. JASK has raised approx. \$40M to date from investors including **Kleiner Perkins**, **Dell**, and **Battery Ventures**. They announced Austin as their sole headquarters in February.
- **New Knowledge** has rebranded to **Yonder**. The firm is a local brand management company that specializes in defending brands against disinformation campaigns. New Knowledge has raised a total of \$18M to date.
- **The University of Texas** has [dropped](#) from #6 to #11 in **Reuters'** annual rankings of the world's most innovative universities. Rankings are based on research citations, patents, and other innovation-related activity.
- Surge in San Francisco tech companies [turning Austin into 'next Silicon Valley'](#)
- Austin [ranked](#) #6 for the strength of its social impact ecosystem in a study conducted by **The Halcyon Incubator**.
- **Ford Mobility** is running their **City:One Challenge** in Austin. If you have a product, service, software or idea that could address mobility issues in Austin, [submit your proposal by November 5th](#).

Thank you!

Mason Rathe

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Additional research and newsletter support provided by [Stephanie Abt](#)



If I missed a deal, major announcement, etc., shoot me an email and happy to include in the next one.

LiveOak Venture Partners is an early stage venture capital firm investing in Texas-based companies. Think your company might be a fit, shoot me an email at mason@liveoakvp.com

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