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**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 00:55  
**To:** masonrathe@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Austin Weekly Deal Highlights 5-17-20



## Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

by Mason Rathe

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Good news hits so much harder these days, and boy am I excited for the team at **Homeward** who just pulled in \$105M in financing! I am most likely not just saying that because they are one of our portfolio companies, and more so because they are significantly simplifying the frustrating home buying and selling process. And icing on the cake, proud to announce our recent investment in **ConverseNow**, what an addition to the portfolio and what a week! Hope all of my people out there are finding their happiness!

### Austin Financing Activity

- [Homeward](#), a comprehensive home buying and selling platform to enable consumers to buy their next home prior to selling the one they have, [raised](#) \$105M in financing, which is comprised of \$20 million in new equity funding and an additional \$85 million in debt to help finance home transactions. The equity portion of the deal was led by **Adams Street Partners**, with additional funding from **Javelin Venture Partners** and existing investor **LiveOak Venture Partners**.
- [NextGen Venture Partners](#), an Austin, Texas-based early-stage VC firm, raised \$52 million for its second fund.
- [ConverseNow](#), a communication platform designed to automate and personalize restaurant orders, [raised](#) \$3.25M in seed funding. The round was led by **Bala Investments**, with participation from investors **LiveOak Venture Partners**, **Tensility Venture Partners**, **Knoll Ventures**, **2048 Ventures**, **Bridge Investments**, and **Ken Neeld**, CEO of **Delphi Display Systems**.
- [Altr](#), a data security and privacy company, has [raised](#) \$15M in new funding from Ronin Capital CEO John Stafford III, Kevin Gainer, Roger Farley and several other angel investors. This group of investors previously led their \$15M round in 2018.
- [Kronologic](#), a calendar automation platform, just [capped off](#) a new round of funding, closing a \$3.5 million seed round. The investment was led by **Silverton Partners**, with participation from **Next Coast Ventures** and **Geekdom Fund**.
- [Carestarter Technologies](#), a healthcare management platform, has [raised](#) \$1.4M in equity funding. The target for the round is \$2.3M.
- [Localeur](#), a travel recommendations platform, has [raised](#) \$127K in equity funding. The company also has content partnerships with **Match Group** and **Jet Blue**
- [AppClose](#), a co-parenting app to make child care management easier, [reported](#) raising \$2M in new equity funding. This is after a \$500K equity funding in October.

### Austin M&A

- [Superpowered](#), a mobile-based audio application designed to create and process custom music files for game, was [acquired](#) by music tech platform **Splice** for an undisclosed amount.

### Other Regional Activity

- [Liongard](#), a Houston-based unified automation platform for managed service providers, [raised](#) \$17 million in Series B funding. Udata Partners led, and was joined by TDF Ventures and Integr8ted Capital.
- [Fitz Gate Ventures](#), which operates out of Houston but with the support of Princeton University, [raises](#) second flagship venture capital fund at \$15M, according to Pitchbook.

- [Saranas](#), a Houston-based developer of a medtech device designed to improve patient outcomes through early detection of internal bleeding complications, raised \$1.65M of venture funding in the form of convertible debt from undisclosed investors. The company has raised over \$14M to date.

## Austin People

- Congrats to [OJO Labs](#), [TalentGuard](#) & [Data.world](#) teams for being named to [ABJ Best Places to work list](#)!
- [Catapult Systems](#), an IT services firm with ties to Microsoft, has [promoted Terri Burmeister](#), to the president. She has worked for the company for 13 years, rising through the leadership ranks as Florida general manager, vice president of sales, and most recently, president of U.S. Operations. Before joining Catapult, she worked for 14 years at [Software Architects](#), which was acquired by [Sogeti](#).
- [Revionics](#), a provider of retail pricing, promotions, markdowns, and advanced analytics solutions, [announced](#) the hiring of [Joshua Oettle](#) as principal product and program manager. Oettle was also senior program manager and senior product manager at [RetailMeNot](#).
- [Magnitude Software](#), a data management and business solutions platform, is [hiring](#) an additional 200 members to its 100 person Austin team. This will happen roughly over the course of the next year or so. These hires come after the company has reportedly tripled profit and revenue over the past 3 years.

## Austin News

- In case you aren't keeping up with Elon's tweets, sounds like Austin is a [serious contender](#) to be the location of [Tesla's](#) new assembly plant
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration [authorized Everlywell's](#) at-home sample collection kit for use in COVID-19 laboratory tests, the first emergency use authorization granted to a digital health company since the pandemic began
- [Changes at Sputnik ATX](#), and application are pen for there next cohort
- Travis County [approves](#) \$10M for direct rental and mortgage assistance
- Austin in [good position](#) to emerge quickly from this downturn
- [Dell's](#) Chief Digital Officer said she [expects](#) half of the company's employees to continue working from home, even after the pandemic becomes less serious. As of right now, more than 90% of Dell's staff is working from home. That number is up 60% due to COVID-19.

Thank you!

Mason Rathe

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Additional research and newsletter support provided by [Thad Hutcheson](#)



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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](mailto:mason@liveoakvp.com)

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