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Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

By Mason Rathe - September 3, 2018



Personally, I can't think of a better way to shake off the long weekend and ease yourself back into the work week than by catching up on your Austin Weekly Deal Highlights. Headlining this Labor Day Edition, real estate tech platform **OpCity** has locked their place in the Austin Startup Hall of Fame (and possibly the quickest to do so) after reaching a [\\$210M buyout](#) agreement from media giant **News Corp**.

Austin Financing Activity

- [New Knowledge](#), a platform that fights online disinformation, [raised](#) an \$11M Series A led **GGV Capital**, with participation from **Lux Capital**. The company last raised a \$1.9M seed round in January led by **Moonshots Capital** with participation from investors including **Geekdom Fund**.
- [Infinite io](#), a developer of data storage intelligence systems, raised a \$10.3M Series B led by **Three Fish Capital** with participation from investors including **Chicago Ventures** and **PV Ventures**.
- [Briggo](#), the provider of automated coffee kiosks, raised [\\$1.5M](#) of convertible debt financing. The company has raised approximately \$15.2M in equity since 2012, from investors including **S3 Ventures**.
- [InSyBio](#), an Austin bioinformatics software company, reported adding [\\$100K](#) in equity funding to the \$450K it reported back in May.

Austin M&A Activity

- [OpCity](#), the real estate referrals platform, is being [acquired](#) by **News Corp** for \$210M. News Corp is the media giant that also owns real estate sites **Move, Inc.** and **Realtor.com**. OpCity's hyper growth and strong exit were accomplished in approximately 2 years, including a \$27M seed round in May of 2017 from investors including **Icon Ventures**, **LiveOak Venture Partners**, and **Georgian Partners**.
- [SpareFoot](#), the online self storage marketplace, has [gobbled up](#) yet another self storage technology company, **StorEdge**. SpareFoot was recently acquired by private equity investor **Cove Hill Partners**.
- Austin-based **Bamba**, which had been part of the Techstars 2016 Austin class, has [sold](#) its data collection technology to UK-based energy solution provider **Maximeyes Group**. Financial details were not disclosed.
- **MicroMain**, a provider of maintenance management software, was [acquired](#) by **JDM Technology Group** for an undisclosed amount.

Austin People

- **Data.world**, a collaborative data resource platform, [hired](#) **Ryan Cush** as its chief revenue officer. Cush previously worked with the data.world founders at **Bazaarvoice**. Data.world has raised over \$30M to date from investors including **Shasta Ventures** and **LiveOak Venture Partners**.
- The UT System Board of Regents officially [appointed](#) **James B. Milliken**, the former City University of New York chancellor, as its new chancellor

Austin News

- **University of Texas** is among schools producing the [Most Startup Founders](#). Meet the [35 UT alums](#) behind some of Austin's leading tech companies
- [Top 5 places to work](#) in Austin revealed by Indeed include tech companies Facebook, Microsoft, and Apple, but with HEB and Keller Williams taking the top two spots.
- **DISCO**, a legal tech startup founded in Houston, is [relocating](#) its corporate headquarters to Austin. Disco last raised a \$20M Series D in December from investors including **Bessemer Venture Partners** and **LiveOak Venture Partners**.
- The **Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas**, or **CPRIT**, [awarded](#) \$177M in research, product development and prevention grants. While much of the grant money went to university-level research projects, CPRIT gave several of its largest grants to Texas companies developing cancer treatments, including an \$18.5M commitment to Austin-based **Formation Biologics Corp**.

- The **University of Texas** will soon be home to the [fastest supercomputer](#) available at any university in the U.S. thanks to a \$60M grant from the **National Science Foundation**.
- British blockchain middleware platform, **Omniude**, is [opening an Austin office](#), where it will center its US sales and business operations.
- According to a [new filing](#) with the SEC, a new cryptocurrency company is looking to raise up to \$50M. Listed as **Black Bull Crypto Fund**, the organization is spearheaded by tech industry veterans Alexander Artyukhin, Tim Peshkov and Constantine Potamianos.
- **Quake Capital** [launches](#) its first accelerator program in Austin with 15 companies
- Several tech companies were among those [awarded](#) at the **Austin Chamber of Commerce's** annual gala.
- **CrowdOut Capital**, an Austin online marketplace for corporate loans, [announced](#) it has made \$112M in loans since launching two years ago.
- **CountertopSmart**, an online marketplace for bathroom countertop remnants, was one of [two winners](#) at the **CodeLaunch Startup Competition** in Frisco earlier this month.

Upcoming Events

- September 4th, [Cybersecurity: Surviving and Thriving in a Connected World](#)
- September 5th, [Intro to the UT & Austin Startup Ecosystem](#)
- September 12th, Austin Cybersecurity [Demo Night](#)
- September 14th, applications due for [DisrupTexas](#)
- September 25th, **Austin Fast Start** [Pitch Competition](#)
- October 1st, [Women in Tech Summit](#)
- October 4th, [ATX Startup Crawl](#) at **Austin Startup Week 2018**
- October 4th, [early deadline](#) for the **SXSW Pitch** Competition
- October 11th, **Austin Inno's** [50 on Fire 2018](#)

Thank you!

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