

From: "Mason Rathe" <mason@texasdealhighlights.com>
Sent: Monday, 27 December 2021 00:20
To: masonrathe@gmail.com
Subject: Austin Weekly Deal Highlights - Dec. 26th, 2021

Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

December 26th, 2021

Christmas feast leftovers, holiday movies, and Austin Weekly Deal Highlights, can you name a better combo?? As a gift to you (or maybe to me) I have a proposition... Until this point, over 4 years, not missing a week, all of these newsletter introductions have been worked out by yours truly, but I would love to hear from you. Think you have a great topic that touches on a major theme in Austin, I'd love to give you the microphone! My goal for 2022 is to make this newsletter even more representative of the community, and that includes the audience playing a bigger role. Shoot me a note if you have a topic and are interested! Now where we're we...

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



GREEN PARK & GOLF VENTURES

Thanks to this week's newsletter sponsor, [GPG Ventures](#), who were also an early investor in **Supergoop**, with a major deal noted below! **Green Park & Golf Ventures ("GPG")** is a Texas-based venture investment firm that specializes in early-stage healthcare, life science, and technology startups. We invest broadly across healthcare and life science, including therapeutics, medical devices, diagnostics, health IT, consumer health products, and life science tools. With offices in Dallas and Houston, GPG is dedicated to advancing promising technologies from seed stage to exit. GPG is seeking promising healthcare, life science, and technology startups and welcomes companies or investors to reach out to us at info@gpgventures.com. Companies must send a current pitch deck.

Austin Weekly Deal Activity

- [The Helper Bees](#), an insurance technology services company focused on older adults, reported a [\\$12.8M venture round](#). The Helper Bees has raised \$20.6M to date from investors including **Silverton Partners**, **Hilltop Venture Partners**, and **Austin Impact Capital**.
- [BluePallet](#), a chemical industry B2B marketplace platform, [announced](#) raising an additional \$3.7M from **Vinmar Ventures**, adding to its previous \$5M to close an \$8.7M Series A. Blue Pallet has raised \$11.9M to date, with other investors including **Bruce Schechinger**, **Mathew Brainerd**, and **Terry Hill**.

- [Brewbike](#), a student-focused cold brew and mobile coffee company, announced a [\\$3M bridge](#) round. Existing investors include **CEAS Investments**, **Connetic Ventures**, **Koto**, and **Chicago Booth Angel Network**.

Austin M&A Activity

- [Fluence Bioengineering](#), an environmentally-friendly LED lighting company, has been [acquired](#) by Signify, a Dutch lighting products company, for \$272M in cash. Fluence had previously been owned by **OSRAM** and will be providing proprietary agricultural lighting technology to Signify's suite of products.
- [Edgile LLC](#), a cybersecurity and risk consulting firm, has been [acquired](#) by **Wipro Technologies**, an Indian IT and consulting services company at a reported \$230M valuation. Edgile had previously raised \$35M led by investor ABRY Partners.
- [Petros PACE](#), a financing company for commercial energy retrofits, [announced](#) an acquisition by **Athene** for an undisclosed amount. Petros had previously raised \$10M from a venture round led by **Alex Rodriguez** and A-Rod Corp.
- [Frost](#), an Austin-based website editing platform and WordPress theme, was [acquired](#) by managed WordPress hosting platform **WP Engine**, who is also based in Austin, for an undisclosed amount. WP Engine last raised \$250M from **Silver Lake** in 2018.
- [Shep](#), a platform that lets companies manage bookings that occur outside of corporate travel policy, [was acquired](#) by **Flight Centre Travel Group** (ASX: FLT) for an undisclosed amount.

Other Texas Deal Activity

- [Zix](#), a Dallas-based public SaaS email-encryption company, has completed its [acquisition by OpenText for \\$860M](#). Zix has been a public company since its IPO in 1989.
- [Supergoop](#), a San Antonio-based sunscreen and beauty products manufacturer, [sold a majority stake](#) to **Blackstone** at a \$700M valuation. Supergoop has raised approx. \$8.8M to date from investors including **Green Park & Golf Ventures**, **Encore Consumer Capital**, **Cult Capital**, and **Maria Sharapova**.
- [VoltaGrid](#), a Houston-based industrial-scale energy management firm, announced a [\\$100M private equity growth round](#), led by **Canada Pension Plan Investment Board**. VoltaGrid has now raised \$172.6M with other investors including **Longbow Capital**, **Pilot Company**, **Walter Ventures**, and **Carnelian Energy Capital**.
- [Halo Collar](#), a Plano-based smart collar and dog-tracking application company, [announced a \\$25M Series B](#) round, at a \$400M post-money valuation, from undisclosed investors.
- [WyTec](#), a San Antonio-based provider of 5G cellular communication technology, has [filed to raise \\$20M in an initial public offering](#), although this figure may change.
- [INOVUES](#), a Houston-based non-invasive window replacement cleantech company, [announced a \\$2.75M venture round](#), led by **Paulos Holdings**. INOVUES has raised \$5.11M to date, with other investors including **Central Texas Angel Network** and **CapitaLand**.
- [Neighborhood Goods](#), a Dallas-based ecommerce company, [reported a \\$1.3M venture raise](#). Neighborhood Good has now raised \$25.5M from investors including **Forerunner Ventures**, **Global Founders Capital**, and **CGR Ventures**.
- [Apogee](#), a Garland-based publisher of interactive entertainment game software, raised [\\$5M](#) of angel funding from undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$5.75M to date.

- [ContraForce](#), a McKinney-based no-code security automation platform, [raised \\$2M](#) of seed funding led by **DataTribe**



Wondering what all these venture terms mean? Check out VelaWood's [Venture Glossary](#)! Vela Wood is a boutique corporate law firm with a local feel and a global impact. Vela Wood focuses its practice in the areas of M&A, Sports & Gaming, Venture Capital, and Corporate Transactions.

Austin News

- Local venture capital firm [Next Coast Ventures](#) filed for a [planned \\$175M third fund](#) along with a \$50M fund for follow-on investments.
- **Elon Musk** says **Tesla's** new Austin factory will [drive \\$10B investment](#). And in other Musk news, Elon Musk's **SpaceX** is on the [brink of bankruptcy](#) due to an engine crisis
- **Amazon** [Plans to Create 2000 New Jobs](#) at Austin Tech Hub
- [Austin tech and startup moves](#): IC2 Institute getting new leader, plus multiple C-suite switches
- With the Omicron variant surging, **COVID-19** cases are up in Austin – 95% higher this past week than the one before – but [so far hospitals are holding strong](#).
- Austin-based **Everly Health** [Enables 45 Million](#) COVID-19 Tests for Americans
- [Texas again leads US in population growth](#), California continues to slip
- **Texas Longhorns** men's basketball is ranked 16th in the nation going into the holiday break after [beating Alabama St](#) to improve to 9-2. UT women's hoops is 9-1 and ranked 12th after [defeating Princeton](#) earlier this week as well.
- **Twentysomethings: Austin**, the latest trending Netflix show, has [quickly climbed the charts](#). If you catch it while you're relaxing this holiday, you may see some favorite local spots like Revival Coffee, Nightcap, and De Nada Cantina!

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

Additional research and newsletter support provided by [Nirjhar Mundkur](#)

Copyright © 2021 Texas Deal Highlights, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).