

**From:** Mason Rathe  
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**To:** masonrathe@gmail.com  
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## Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

*March 10th, 2024*

The days of SXSW are upon us! the 9-day marathon, which features over 3,000 conference speakers, 350+ sessions, 1,570+ artists and 75+ stages is here! And can someone please explain to me how we got a Ferris Wheel installed in the middle of downtown??

But what about the deal activity?? Ah yes. Austin-based **Firefly Aerospace** is on the rise. What started with one rocket testing stand in rural Central Texas has grown into a commercial space payload company that plans four rocket launches this year, six to eight next year and a dozen in 2026. This growth coincides with a fresh \$179M this week!

Check out all the Austin (and Texas) deal highlights below!

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This week's newsletter brought to you by:



# SchoolLinks

[SchoolLinks](#) is a college and career readiness platform with curriculum that

engages students throughout the process of self discovery, career education and college planning and application. The student-centric experience is able to create a wealth of behavioral data, and its machine learning algorithms leverage those data to personalize college recommendations and content to further drive student engagement. SchoolLinks then serves actionable insights to counselors that help them act in real time to become more effective. On a district level, the sophisticated data models power a full suite of accountability tools to allow administrators to monitor and achieve desired college and career readiness outcomes.

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### **Austin Deal Activity**

- [Firefly Aerospace](#), the Austin-based local rocket ship manufacturer, [raised approx. \\$179M from undisclosed investors](#). Previously, the company raised approx. \$572M from investors including **AE Industrial Partners, Mitsui & Co., Ltd.** and **DADA Holdings**.
- [BrainCheck](#), an Austin-based digital health innovator delivering first-of-its-kind technology into the growing digital cognitive assessment market, today announced a [\\$15M new financing round](#), led by **Next Coast Ventures, S3 Ventures,** and **UPMC Enterprises**.
- [Tiny Health](#), an Austin-based startup working to innovate the infant gut health space, [raised \\$8.5M in a Series A](#) led by **Spero Ventures**. The round brings the company's total funding to \$13M from other investors including **North South Ventures** and **TheVentureCity**.
- [MALK Organics](#), an Austin-based plant-based milk brand, [raised \\$7M](#) in funding from **Benvolio Group, Rotor Capital,** and others.
- [CardioOne](#), an Austin-based physician enablement company built specifically to serve independent cardiologists, [was acquired by](#) **WindRose Health Investors**, the New York-based healthcare private

equity firm, for an undisclosed amount. The company raised \$8M to date.

- Austin-based [Red Oak Compliance Solutions](#), a leader in comprehensive intelligent compliance software solutions, announced its acquisition of [SiteQuest Compliance](#), a respected compliance monitoring and website surveillance software firm.

### Other Texas Deal Activity

- [Fervo](#), Houston geothermal startup who provides carbon-free energy, [secures \\$244M](#) in funding round led by energy corporate **Devon Energy**. In 2022, Fervo [raised a \\$138 million series C](#) round to support the completion of power plants in Nevada and Utah and evaluate new projects in California, Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, and New Mexico, as well as in other countries. This latest investment brings the company's total funds raised to \$431 million since its inception in 2017
- In Joint Venture with **Digital Realty**, **Mitsubishi** Is [Paying \\$265M](#) for 65% Interest in Two Dallas-Area Data Centers
- **The Artemis Fund**, based in Houston, which invests in underrepresented founders, [closed on its second fund with \\$36 million](#) in capital commitments.
- Dallas-based sandal brand [Hari Mari](#), which distributes its products to more than 800 retailers across the country, [closed a \\$10M equity raise](#) led by **Landon Smith**, founder and former CEO of business consulting firm Riveron
- [Corvion](#), a Webster, Texas-based developer of fully implanted mechanical circulatory support devices, [raised \\$8.6M](#)
- [Octavo Systems](#), a Sugarland-Texas based provider of System-in-Package (SiP) solutions, [raised \\$1M](#) from undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$9.6M to date
- [InGeneron](#) a Houston-based company which enables novel, safe, and

evidence-based therapies that unlock the healing potential of each patient's own regenerative cells, [raised \\$1.7M](#) of venture funding from undisclosed investors. The company has raised \$52.7M to date from investors including **Stanford Health**

## Austin News

- Austin tech sector [buoyed by big projects](#) from heavyweights **Tesla**, **Samsung** and **Apple**
- Austin's [Next Startup Surge](#) Is In the Life Sciences
- Austin-based media company **Rooster Teeth** [shuts down after 21 years](#). The company was acquired by **Warner Bros.** in 2019.
- **ESO**, a leading data and software company serving emergency medical services (EMS), fire departments, hospitals, state, and federal systems, [promoted](#) **Brandon Martinez** as its Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) where he will be focused on continuing to accelerate strategic investment in data and technology innovation at ESO. ESO has raised approx. \$45M.
- **Serent Capital**, a growth-focused private equity firm that invests in founder-led B2B SaaS and technology companies, [announced](#) the promotions of **John Caselli** and **Dexter Hopen** to Partner, expanding the partnership to six members.
- **Waymo** [begins tests of fully autonomous vehicles](#) in Austin

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

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