

From: "Mason Rathe" <mason@texasdealhighlights.com>
Sent: Monday, 11 October 2021 00:43
To: mason@schoolinks.com
Subject: Austin Weekly Deal Highlights - Oct 10, 2021

Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

October 10th, 2021

If you build it, they will come. It may look like Austin's has transformed overnight into this major tech economic hub, but believe me, this has been decades in the making. Years of investment in local startups, building them up to market leaders, creating experienced executives that recycle into new companies, that's how this hub was born, not to mention fueled by young talent from arguably the greatest university (although maybe not at football...). So all of that to say, we got another one. This week **Tesla** announced they are moving their headquarters here. In the past 24 months we've seen **Oracle**, **Apple's** HQ2, **Samsung's** \$17B plant, and Rocket Man himself. Who's next?

And it's not only Austin y'all, big things all across the state. Next week I'll be sending out Q3 highlights for Dallas and Houston!

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



[Escalate Capital Partners](#) is an Austin-based growth capital fund founded in 2005. Since its inception, Escalate has invested more than \$1B into over one hundred rapidly growing, venture-backed companies. The Escalate team has investment experience within the technology, software, services, and healthcare sectors. To learn more about how our capital solutions can accelerate growth, reach out to us at any time - info@escalatecapital.com

Austin Weekly Deal Activity

- [Volcon](#), an electric dirt bike and ATV manufacturer, [completed its IPO](#), debuting on the Nasdaq under the ticker VLCN, in which they sold about 3M shares raising approx. \$16.6M. Shares initially soared from the opening price of \$5.50 to \$14.30 and are currently at \$9.13.
- [Olea Edge Analytics](#), an AI monitoring, billing, and insights company for city water systems, announced a [\\$35M Series C round](#), led by [Insight Partners](#), and have raised a total of \$50.6M with investors including [Renewal Funds](#) and [Mercury Fund](#).

- [SigmaSense](#), a fully-scalable sensing technology firm, announced a \$24M Series B, a year after their \$22M round that was led by [Foxconn Technology Group](#), and included [Corning](#), and [E Ink](#).
- [Alpha Paw](#), a pet wellness company, has raised an [\\$8M Series A](#) round, led by [Nordic Eye](#) and including [Neal Dempsey](#) of [BayPartners](#).
- [Assembly](#), a virtual culinary experiences company, has raised a [seed round of \\$1.75M](#) led by [Wilshire Lane Partners](#) and [Acrew Capital](#).
- [Creaton](#), a decentralized content material administration and sharing platform, raised [\\$1.1M](#) of venture funding from BTSE and Tykhe Block Ventures

Austin M&A Activity

- [FloSports](#), a sports video-streaming company, [acquired HockeyTech Inc.](#), for the company's hockey streaming platform and statistics software. FloSports has raised \$79.4M with investors including [Discovery](#), [WWE](#), [BDMI](#), [DCM Ventures](#), and [Causeway Media Partners](#).
- [Raptor Technologies](#), a Houston and Austin-based student safety platform, received an undisclosed amount of development capital from [JMI Equity](#), [Thoma Bravo](#) and [Ares Capital Corporation BDC](#). As part of the financing, Raptor [acquired](#) U.K.-based software firm CPOMS, which develops an online system to safeguard students and improve student outcomes by documenting incidents of abuse, cyberbullying and other issues.
- [Fourth](#), a restaurant workforce and inventory company, has [acquired both PeopleMatter](#) and [Hiring Manager](#) from [Snagajob](#), with backing from [Marlin Equity Partners](#). Fourth has previous venture funding from [Insight Partners](#) and [ECI Partners](#).
- [Stylust](#), a digital shopping platform, was acquired by [Wizard Commerce](#) for an undisclosed amount.

Other Texas Deal Activity

- [BlackBoxStocks](#), a Dallas-based stock analytics SaaS platform, has [filed to go public](#) on the Nasdaq, under the ticker BLBX, seeking to raise \$20M.
- [Solo Brands](#), a Southlake, Texas-based maker of branded fire pits and camp stoves, filed for an IPO. It plans to list on the NYSE (DTC) and reports \$42M of net income on \$158M in revenue for the first half of 2021. Shareholders include [Summit Partners](#).
- [Cypress Growth Capital](#), a Dallas-based financing firm, has closed a \$50M fourth fund with which they've made their [first investment of \\$2.8M](#) to [Vision2 Systems](#), a church management platform.
- [Otto](#), a Dallas-based fintech mobile platform, [raised a \\$4.5M seed round](#) led by [Uncommon Capital](#), including [Pelion Venture Partners](#) and [Mark Cuban](#).
- [Allied Bioscience](#), a Plano-based antimicrobial coating biotech company, reported raising [\\$600K in debt, equity, and other options](#) via six investors.
- [DocJuris](#), a Houston-based a contract negotiation platform, raised [\\$2.15M](#) of venture funding from undisclosed investors

Featured Job of the Week

- [Senior Backend Engineer](#), [Lithic](#) is a hyper-growth, Series C FinTech start-up making digital payments safer and easier for everyone.

Austin People

- Meet the new class of [Austin's Best CEOs](#)
- **Sarah Jones Simmer**, former COO at [Bumble](#), has left the dating and friends app to join [Found](#), a startup focused on clinical and body positive steps towards weight loss, [as their new CEO](#).
- [FileTrail](#), a record management software firm, [announced](#) **Harold Westervelt**, former CEO of [Sapiens Decision](#) and President of [INVeSHARE](#), as their new CEO.
- [CognitiveScale](#), an enterprise cognitive cloud software company, has named **Robert J. Picciano**, former [IBM](#) Senior VP, as their [new CEO](#). They also hired Mike McQuad as Chief Revenue Officer and Bart Peluso as VP of Marketing. The company has raised approx. \$64M to date from investors including **Norwest Venture Partners, M12 and Intel Capital**.
- [RapidDeploy](#), an emergency response platform, [hired](#) **Karen Carlson** as their new VP of Product. Carlson was previously a SaaS portfolio manager at [Motorola Solutions](#) and product manager at [NICE Ltd](#). The company has raised approx. \$53M to date from investors including **Morpheus Ventures, Ericsson Ventures, and GM Ventures**.

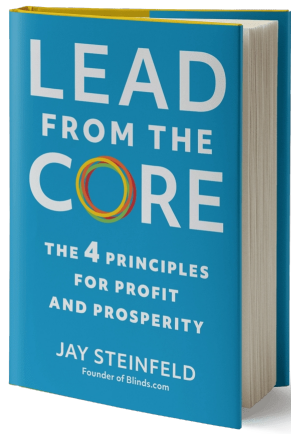
Austin News

- CEO **Elon Musk** announced that [Tesla](#) will be [moving its headquarters to Austin](#), bringing the company to the home of their Travis County Gigafactory.
- Texas and Austin [See Record Levels](#) of VC Funding in 2021 and it's not Slowing Down
- **Airtable** [Opens New Office](#) in Downtown Austin
- [Austin Startup Week](#), run by [Capital Factory](#), completed its week of talks, events, and happy hours this past Friday.
- Several prominent Austin founders are [joining forces](#) to launch a Texas branch of a New York City-based venture capital fund focused on backing gritty, diverse startup founders. The new microfund being launched in Texas is the latest geographic focus of a firm called **The Fund**, which was founded by Techstars Managing Director [Jenny Fielding](#).
- [Tekion](#), an automotive SaaS platform, announced a Series D funding round of [\\$250M](#), at a \$3.5B valuation and plans to use part of the funds to build a product hub in Austin.
- **Infinity Ward**, a video game studio most famous for their 'Call of Duty' franchise, [tweeted](#) that they are opening an office in Austin for the developmental team.
- The [average monthly rent in Austin is now \\$1,500](#). Prices are rising at the fastest pace ever
- Austin-based **Yeti** [sues Igloo](#) over drinkware, alleging patent infringement
- Forbes 400 names [seven Austin billionaires](#) while two bite the dust

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

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



“Lead from the Core is required reading for any startup founder.”

~Blair Garrou, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Mercury Fund

[Download the first chapter for free today.](#)

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](#).