

From: Mason Rathe
Sent: Mon, 18 Sep 2023 01:56:52 +0000
To: masonrathe@gmail.com
Subject: Austin Weekly Deal Highlights - September 17, 2023

Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

September 17th, 2023

Good evening Austin! Your friendly, neighborhood, moonlighting journalist back again to bring you this week's dose of weekly deal highlights! So let's see, a handful of venture deals and a couple solid Series B's this week for Austin, but the main attraction might be a couple hours up I-35. North Texas saw M&A activity hit nearly \$2 billion this week, from deals including **Avantax**, **Optimal Blue**, and **Learfield**. Make sure to check out all the details below!

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[Pennington Partners](#) is an award-winning multi-family office that recently opened an office in Houston, Texas. Pennington's mission is to elevate the lives of highly successful entrepreneurial founders and their families. Founded by two like-minded families who have built and sold companies in various industries, Pennington specializes and works exclusively with successful founders, GPs, and business owners both pre- and post-exit to help achieve their goals at the intersection of investments, income tax strategy, and estate planning. If you are planning for an exit, have a large amount of carried interest, or have recently exited a business, [please click here](#) to speak with our Founder and

Austin Financing Activity

- [CertifID](#), a wire fraud protection company, [raised a \\$20M Series B](#) led by **Arthur Ventures**. The company has now raised approx. \$36M to date.
- [Chipletz](#), a fabless substrate startup that specializes in semiconductor packaging, raised a [\\$23M Series B](#) led by **SKC Company**. The company has raised approx. \$32M to date.
- [Verisoul](#), a decentralized platform intended to build trust between Web3 businesses and their communities, raised \$3.8M Seed funding led by **BITKRAFT Ventures**.
- [Mosie Baby](#), an at-home fertility solutions provider, [raised \\$1M of venture funding](#) from **Everywhere Ventures, Magic Fund** and **The Council**.

Other Texas Deal Activity

- [Avantax](#) (NASDAQ: AVTA), a Dallas-based provider of tax-focused wealth management services and software, entered into a definitive agreement to be acquired by **Cetera Financial Group**, via its financial sponsor **Genstar Capital**, [for approximately \\$1.2B](#). The company has a market cap of approximately \$940M.
- [Optimal Blue](#), a Plano-based an online mortgage marketplace platform, [was acquired by Constellation Software \(TSE: CSU\) for \\$700M](#). The company was previously acquired by **Compass Analytics, Cannae Holdings** and **Thomas H. Lee Partners** for \$1.8B in 2021.
- [Learfield](#), a Plano-based college sports-focused media rights and technology company, was acquired by **Clearlake Capital Group, Charlesbank Capital Partners** and **Fortress Investment Group** [for \\$150M](#). This was part of a recapitalization that had its debt reduced by more than \$600M.
- [Osteal Therapeutics](#), a Dallas-based developer of infection therapeutics,

[raised \\$22M](#) of venture funding from undisclosed investors. The company has raised approx. \$67M from investors including **HM Capital, Johnson & Johnson**, and **Medvest Capital**.

- [Autonomix](#), a Houston-based medical device company for diseases involving the peripheral nervous system, filed to go public. [The expected offering amount is \\$20M](#). Previously, the company raised \$2.4M of venture funding from undisclosed investors
- [Amperon](#), a Houston-based forecasting and analytics platform for the energy industry, raised a [\\$7M Series A](#) from **Riverstone Holdings**, **Climate Capital** and **Ambush Capital**. The company has raised approx. \$21M to date.

Thank you!

[Mason Rathe](#)

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