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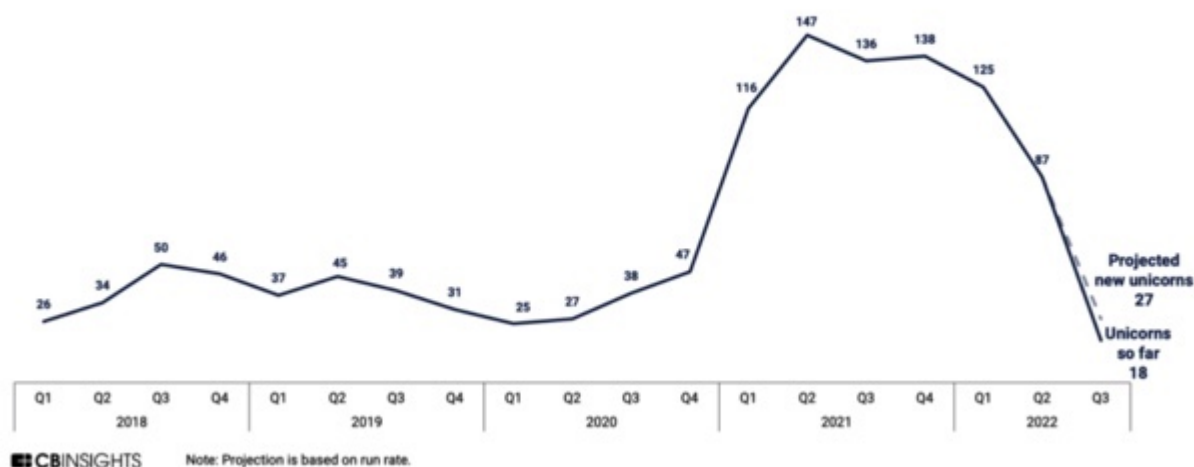
Austin Weekly Deal Highlights

September 18th, 2022

The days of the unicorn are over? Somebody didn't tell us that, here at [SchoolLinks](#), we are well on our way... Get in now, while we are in the glory days - we are hiring great [account execs](#) and [BDR's](#) stat! Meanwhile, elsewhere in the market, venture funding wanes, valuations are suffering, and we are at our steepest decline in newly minted unicorns. But hey, you live in Austin (or thinking about it), so you're still winning!

The number of new unicorns takes a nosedive in Q3'22

Number of new companies reaching a \$1B+ valuation (as of 8/31/22)



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[Shearman & Sterling](#) has provided legal counsel to hundreds of venture-backed and privately held companies on matters involving formation and development, early and late stage funding, mergers and acquisitions, initial public offerings, intellectual property, corporate governance, and executive compensation. We also represent venture capital and private equity firms, as well as corporate strategic investors in investments in emerging growth companies. We have subject matter expertise and flexibility to scale our practice alongside our clients, representing them at every stage of growth.

According to *The Texas Lawbook* Corporate Deal Tracker, Shearman & Sterling has been once again listed as one of the top law firms for transactions in Texas for the first six months of 2022. The firm's Texas lawyers were involved in 30 M&A transactions with a combined deal value of \$5.1 billion.

Austin Financing Activity

- [Molecula](#), a real-time database built entirely on bitmaps, has rebranded to **FeatureBase** as it renews its efforts around its open source community. coinciding with a [\\$10M Series A Extension](#). This rounds out the \$28M Series A led by **Drive Capital**.
- [HeatGen](#), a manufacturer of self heating cans for beverages and food, raised an [\\$8.7M Series C venture](#) from **Carnrite Ventures, Flight Ventures, Proud.Ventures**. The company has raised approx. \$22M to date.
- [Phantom Neuro](#), a developer of neurotech robotic limbs for amputees, raised [\\$6M in seed funding](#) led by **Time BioVentures** with participation from **Risk & Return**.
- [Clusiv](#), an e-learning platform built for and by blind and partially sighted people, raised [\\$3M of seed funding](#) from undisclosed investors.

Austin M&A Activity

- [Uplogix](#), a network management platform designed to facilitate and configure security management, was acquired by Internet of Things platform **Lantronix** (NAS: LTRX) [for \\$8M](#). The company had raised approx. \$5M from investors including **Citigroup, Adams Capital Management, Seven Mile Capital Partners** and **Daylight Partners**.
- [SiteCapture](#), a field operations platform for the solar industry, was [acquired](#) by **FotoNotes**, a popular field service platform for residential real estate and property management. The combined entity to be called **SiteCapture**.

Other Texas Deal Activity

- [Neurolens](#), a Coppel, TX-based a vision measurement device system designed to improve eye alignment and vision, raised \$68M Series E venture funding in a deal led by **MVM Partners, Bluestem Capital Company, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, Marshall Wace, and Falcon Vision also participated in the round**. The company has raised approx. \$126M to date.
- [Intuitive Machines](#), a Houston-based company that develops lunar landers and related capabilities for NASA and other customers, [will go public](#) through a merger with a special purpose acquisition company. Inflection Point has \$330 million in fiduciary cash, although that money can be redeemed by shareholders if they decide not to hold shares of the merged company. The deal includes \$55 million in guaranteed capital segregated from SPAC sponsor SPAC as well as the founder of Intuitive Machines, and a \$50 million capital base from **CF Main Investments LLC**.
- [MAJORITY](#), a Houston-based startup providing mobile banking for migrants in the US, announced a [\\$37.5M Series B](#), encompassing \$30M in equity from **Valar Ventures** and **Heartland Capital**, and \$7.5M in debt.
- [Delwinds Insurance Acquisition](#), a Houston-based Special Purpose Acquisition Company, [was acquired](#) by life insurance platform **FOXO Technologies** through a reverse merger, resulting in the combined entity trading on the NYSE Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol **FOXO**.

- [DISA Global Solutions](#), a Houston-based provider of drug testing, background screening and employee compliance solutions, [was acquired](#) by **Audax Group** for an undisclosed sum. The company was previously acquired by **Court Square Partners** in 2014.
- [Ruckus Games](#), a Plano-based gaming studio, raised a [\\$5.5M Seed Round](#) led by **Transcend Fund**. The video game studio was launched back in August 2021 by ex-Gearbox and Riot developers.
- [Cerebro Sports](#), a Dallas-based sports tech co. maintaining a database of basketball performance analytics, raised an undisclosed amount of seed funding in a deal led by Mark Cuban.
- [Centraforce](#), a Dallas-based platform to providing population-centric data for healthcare decisions, [was acquired](#) by **Prealize** for an undisclosed amount. The co. had raised approx. \$8M to date.

Austin People

- [Dropoff](#), the nationwide, same-day custom courier service specializing in last-mile delivery, [appointed](#) of **Rosa L. McCormick** and **Jim Darcy** as members of its board of directors in addition to **Srini Palamarthy** as Chief Financial Officer and **Millie Tarallo** as Chief Revenue Officer. **Steward Pickard**, Dropoff's longtime SVP of Operations, was named Chief Operations Officer. Dropoff has raised approx. \$60M to date from investors including **HOLT Ventures**, **Wild Basin Investments**, **Greycroft Partners**, **Pine Hill Capital** and **Fulcrum Equity Partners**.
- [Ecliptic Capital](#), an Austin-based early stage venture capital firm, brought on [David J Neff](#) as an Operating Partner. Neff has 21 years of creating experiences that impact consumers' lives and he is now taking this experience into the world of VC.

Austin News

- 5 reasons why Texas is the [top state for business](#)
- [Hired's State Tech Salaries](#) report placed Austin fifth among markets for the highest local tech salaries this year, trailing behind only the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, New York, and Boston. Austin is the second-highest average salary market in 2022 when adjusted for the cost of living.
- Fast 50: [2022 winners revealed](#)
- 3 Austin companies make [Forbes list of best employers](#) in Texas
- UT's newly named research commercialization group, called **Discovery to Impact**, [secured a five-year, \\$15 million investment](#) to help researchers take new discoveries to market.
- Austin's [job market still strong](#), jobless rate at 3%
- **Apple's** hard push to get its thousands of Austin [workers back to their desks](#)
- Majority of Austin's short-term rentals [operating illegally](#)

Thank you!

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