

Paymerang, a Richmond, Virginia-based supplier payments specialist, is eyeing potential acquisition opportunities, said Nasser Chanda, CEO.

# **Brief Summary:**

Paymerang processes electronic payments quickly and securely via its automated solutions for banking, education, healthcare, media, manufacturing and services companies, according to the company.



#### Investors:

Aldrich Capital Partners

## CEO:

Nasser Chanda





# Interesting Fact:

The company, which raised \$26m in growth capital from Aldrich Capital Partners, is interested in approaches from dealmakers that have potential acquisition opportunities, Chanda said.



WhizAI, a Somerset, New Jersey-based provider of an AIdriven business intelligence platform for pharma and life sciences companies, is planning its Series A raise in 12 months, said Rohit Vashisht, co-founder and CEO.

### **Brief Summary:**

The company's artificial intelligence platform for pharmaceutical and life sciences uses natural language processing and cognitive insights to answer user's questions via voice and text.



#### **Investors:**

Healthy Ventures, Bling Capital, Firebolt Ventures

#### **CEO** and co-founder:

Rohit Vashisht





# **Interesting Fact:**

Vashisht is actively seeking strategic partnerships and welcomes approaches, he said. As it builds its partner network, it is interested in partnering with system integrators, data partners, technology players such as Viva Technology and Salesforce, and platform companies such as Amazon Web Services or Google. It will consider reseller agreements and other deal structures.



♠MPOWER Financing, is seeking additional partnerships and is already in the middle of rolling out a new refinancing offering after recently raising new funding, CEO Emmanuel Smadja said.

# **Brief Summary:**

MPower is a student loan provider that allows DACA students and international students to get a loan without requiring a cosigner.



#### Investors:

Breega, Potencia Ventures, AI8, Cometa, Zephyr-Peacock, 1776, Fresco Capital, 1994 LLC, Goal Structured Solutions

#### **CEO** and co-founder:

Emmanuel Smadja





# **Interesting Fact:**

Smadja had his first experience as an international student almost 20 years ago, when he attended the University of Virginia.





PYT Funds, a Washington D.C.-based student loan funding platform, is actively fundraising its seed round, said Dick Adams, CEO and co-founder.

# **Brief Summary:**

PYT is aiming to meet the student loan tuition gap by offering "student loanership" programs, in which students crowdfund 10% to 20% of their tuition to build their credit and in turn, banks fully fund their student loans.



#### **Investors:**

New Media Ventures, Points of Light, Village Capital alumni and TEDCO



Sorcero, a Washington D.C.-based artificial intelligence technology provider for insurance and life sciences, sees its Series A likely within 12 months, said Dipanwita Das, founder and CEO, and Richard Graves, COO, in a joint interview.

## **Brief Summary:**

Sorcero is developing an AI software platform that uses natural language processing to create no-code NLP-driven business applications for enterprises, Its platform helps customers in the life sciences and insurance industries to handle complex information, policies, rules, and regulations, gu5 automating the building of smart knowledge bases and workflows, according to the company.



**Advisors:** Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman

#### Investors:

Upscale Strategies, Pearl Investment Partners, Plug And Play, Jane VC, Alumni Ventures Group, Castor Ventures and Hatzimemos / Libby

#### **CEO** and founder:

Dipanwita Das







\*Battleface, a Reston, Virginia-based travel insurance startup, is likely to seek more capital this year, CEO Sasha Gainullin said.

### **Brief Summary:**

Battleface plans to scale up the infrastructure it has already built for travel to start developing additional lines or services for other insurance players including carriers, brokers, MGAs and MGUs.



#### Investors:

Fintech Ventures Fund Greenlight Re and Tangiers Group.

#### CEO:

Sasha Gainullin





# Interesting Fact:

Battleface recently announced it had partnered with Roanoke Travel Insurance, a subsidiary of Munich Re Specialty Group North America. This partnership enables Battleface to launch product sales in the United States.



**Everything Benefits**, a New Providence, New Jersey-based employee benefits software platform, will evaluate its capital raise plans next year, said Rachel Lyubovitzky, CEO and cofounder.

# **Brief Summary:**

Everything Benefit's software platform automates the enrollment, administration and communication of health, voluntary and financial benefits data.



#### **Investors:**

Arthur Ventures

#### CEO:

Rachel Lyubovitzky





# **Interesting Fact:**

EverythingBenefits may also explore acquisitions to grow. It already has a list of potential targets, but it is also interested in entertaining new opportunities. Companies with complementary product lines for the employee benefits space would make sense, CEO Rachel Lyubovitzky told FHM.



charitable giving platform, may raise its Series A later this year depending on COVID-19, said Gideon Taub, founder and CEO. Pinkaloo Technologies, a Baltimore, Maryland-based

### **Brief Summary:**

Pinkallo partners with banks, credit unions and employers with 100 to 100K employees to offer them an automated giving platform for their employees. Pinkaloo helps individuals both budget their giving, and find organizations to support.



website

#### Investors:

Squadra Ventures, Baltimore Angels, Tedco and C5 Accelerate

#### **CEO** and founder:

Gideon Taub





# Interesting Fact:

CEO Gideon Taub founded Pinkaloo in 2016 after identifying a need for a centralized and simple payment platform for charitable giving. Prior to Pinkaloo, Taub helped build Videology, which grew to 350 employees before being acquired by Amobee in 2018 for \$100m.



Picwell, a Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based employee benefits healthtech, is evaluating sale and capital raise options, said Matthew Sydney, CEO.

### **Brief Summary:**

Picwell DX is a direct to consumer and allows individual employees to see which health plan best fits their personal situation. Picwell API is the company's commercial or direct to business product that helps human resource and employee benefit departments present employees with a ranking of plan fit.



#### Investors:

Sandbox Ventures, MassMutual Ventures and Aflac

#### CEO:

Matthew Sydney





# **Interesting Fact:**

Sydney joined Picwell in 2017. He previously held a sales executive role at Utah-based HealthEquity, a health savings company. Picwell was founded in 2013 by a group of University of Pennsylvania professors and a Wharton MBA.





\*KlariVis, a Roanoke, Virginia-based creator of a cloud-based analytics platform used by community banks and other FIs, is in the process of raising a round that should bring into profitability with the pipeline it has, CEO Kim Snyder said.

# **Brief Summary:**

The biggest pain point banks have is the time and effort required to create reports. Bank employees spend considerable resources on producing reports for officers, customers, and regulators. At my bank, we were only \$900m in assets, but still had 6 to 7 people who spent 30% to 40% of their time writing reports manually.



#### **CEO** and founder:

Kimberly Snyder





# **Interesting Fact:**

KlariVis was founded in February 2019 and launched commercially in January 2020. On March 9, the company announced that it already had six financial institutions using its analytics platform and more than 80 others that are evaluating the platform.



Ubitquity, an enterprise-ready blockchain platform for real estate recordkeeping, lanning to expand into the South East Asian market.

# **Brief Summary:**

Ubitquity introduced a recording and tracking system, which using blockchain, adds transparency to the process and to ownership and property information. It also reduced search time. With its blockchain platform, it aims to strengthen and not replace its existing analog counterpart: the physical or paper records in real estate and its client base includes title companies, municipalities/land records offices, the CEO said.



#### CEO:

Nathan Wosnack





# **Interesting Fact:**

Wosnack has been an entrepreneur since the age of 19 and has had a couple of successful exits. He considers Ubitquity to be the most fulfilling company he has ever started because it went from a startup with no money, no customers, and no platform to one that with a SaaS platform and API, a growing customer list and a healthy amount of revenue, he told FHM.

Dec 13,



### **Most Recent Coverage:**

Plynty, a Herndon, Virginia-based provider of a retirement planning application, will evaluate its capital raise options in four to six months, said president, Dennis Hooks and Jon Getchell, head of business development, in a joint interview.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company offers simple, convenient and personalized retirement planning through its mobile app.



#### **Investors:**

**AEM Corporation** 

# **Interesting Fact:**

Plynty is a white-label application which it is looking to license to financial institutions. The company offers personalized retirement planning through its mobile app.





◆Pinkaloo Technologies, a Baltimore startup that is building a white-label charitable giving account product, is now developing relationships for its Series A round that it will "realistically" raise in about 12 to 18 months, CEO and founder Gideon Taub told this news service.

### **Brief Summary:**

Pinkaloo provides banks and credit unions white-label "modern giving" accounts which allow members to manage their donations. The company charges FIs monthly license fees per account, Taub said. Pinkaloo can help with customer acquisition and retention.



#### Investors:

Squadra, TEDCO, Baltimore Angels, C5 Capital



**\*ANOVA Intelligence**, an Arlington, Virginia-based company focused on cyber-risk detection, is in the process of raising a seed round, CEO Gentry Lane said.

### **Brief Summary:**

ANOVA has developed technology that catches cyber threats that others miss, the CEO said. ANOVA is now offering the same type of deep scan that the FBI uses, she said.





◆Elsen, a Boston, Massachusetts-based company that has created a platform that makes it easier for financial institutions to access both external and internal data for creating investment strategies, could become an attractive acquisition target if it demonstrates success in its market, said Zac Sheffer, CEO and co-founder.

# **Brief Summary:**

Elsen is a software-as-a-service platform for financial institutions, hedge funds, mutual funds, and buy-side asset managers. Its nPlatform is simple and user-friendly, allowing portfolio managers to quickly pull and analyze important data in minutes. The platform is able to serve clients ranging from USD 10m to USD 700bn in asset size, according to Sheffer.



#### Advisors: Foley & Lardner

#### Investors:

Accomplice, Boston Syndicates (BOSS), Hyperplane Venture Capital, Launch Capital, Sequoia Strategic Advisors, and Bret Siarkowski



\*Prepay Nation, a Berwyn, Pennsylvania-based company that makes it easy for people to buy phone time for friends and family overseas and which also offers a white-label digital platform to mobile operators, continues to seek partnerships and acquisitions, CEO and co-founder Anurag Jain told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company specializes in micro-and cross border transfers through airtime, but is not a remittance company and is not involved in money transfer, which is a more regulated business, the CEO noted.



website



\*Battleface, a Virginia-based managing general agent specializing in insurance that covers travel to remote, unstable or dangerous locations, is now raising seed capital and could be in a position to raise its next round of funding in about 18 months, CEO Sasha Gainullin said.

# **Brief Summary:**

a Virginia-based managing general agent specializing in insurance that covers travel to remote, unstable or dangerous locations

website



\*DriveltAway, a Haddonfield, New Jersey-based startup that provides car dealerships with the tools and software to set up vehicle sharing programs, plans to raise a decent-size A round in Q3 or Q4 of this year, CEO and founder John Possumato told this news service.

### **Brief Summary:**

a Haddonfield, New Jersey-based startup that provides car dealerships with the tools and software to set up vehicle sharing programs website



Invest Sou Sou, a Washington, D.C.-based company that has created an online social banking platform aimed at building savings and credit, is raising \$1.5m in seed capital, said COO Tanya Hiple.

# **Brief Summary:**

Families, social groups and businesses can form the networks. A group decides to open a Sou Sou account online, then tailors a group savings account and goal, and subsequently invites other peers to join. Hiple said the Sou Sou concept has had success with 26 community banks throughout the US to encourage savings and to attract more accounts to individual banks.





\*Bitcoin Solutions Inc. (Mybitcards.com), the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based creator of a gift card that can be redeemed on its website for Bitcoin, is actively raising seed financing, CEO and founder Edward Gieske told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based creator of a gift card that can be redeemed on its website for Bitcoin website



NormShield, the Vienna, Virginia-based creator of a SaaS-based platform that businesses use to generate cyber risk "scorecards", is focused on domestic and international expansion after raising a seed round this February, CEO Mohamoud Jibrell said.

# **Brief Summary:**

NormShield has built a SaaS-based platform that businesses use to generate cyber risk "scorecards." These reports inform the business of what cyber risks it faces, and also helps it determine the steps it needs to take to remediate them.



# **Interesting Fact:**

Customers can not only monitor themselves for risk, but they are able to monitor their entire ecosystem. The platform assesses the risk of subsidiary companies, suppliers, or other third parties, so there is no weak link that can expose the company to undue risk. About 66% of all hacking events are initiated through a third-party network, Jibrell noted.



\*Craxel, a Chantilly, Virginia-based data security company, is launching a subsidiary focused on financial services, CEO Donald Robinson said. To support the new entity, the company is raising a small equity round and has held talks already with some possible angel and strategic investors, he said.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company has developed a searchable data layer that only receives encrypted information. This "trust" layer does not possess the encryption keys needed to decrypt that data, which makes that data "impervious to theft," according to the company



#### OB1



### **Most Recent Coverage:**

♦ OB1, a for-profit, Washington, D.C.-based company that is launching products and services on top of the free, opensource marketplace, OpenBazaar, is likely to raise more equity capital, CEO Brian Hoffman said.

### **Brief Summary:**

OB1's next product is likely to be a decentralized web application, Hoffman said. It is also planning to offer advanced merchant services, from which it expects to generate income from.



# CEO:

Brian Hoffman





# **Interesting Fact:**

Hoffman described Haven as a "WeChat for crypto". The app is interoperable with OpenBazaar and includes a wallet and social media. Users of Haven are able to shop, chat, and send cryptocurrencies privately, according to the company.



♦Yombu, a Tysons, Virginia-based startup developing biometric technology for use in payments and loyalty programs, is looking to raise a Series A round by Q3 2019, a company source told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company uses fingerprint authentication and pin numbers for customer verification. Its technology analyzes the unique features of a fingerprint and converts them, through a one-way algorithm, into an alphanumeric code that is then stored securely in the company's data vault.



# **Interesting Fact:**

An eventual exit for Yombu is likely to come through an acquisition by a strategic buyer or integration partner, a second source told this news service. An eventual buyer could be a point-of-sale company or payments processor. It is possible too that an acquirer could be one a Yombu's integration partners, as a partner could see a benefit in purchasing Yombu rather than having to pay licensing fees, the second source said.

Microbilt, the Princeton, New Jersey-based consumer credit reporting agency serving thin file focused lenders, is not interested in an IPO, but could eventually become a target for a strategic buyer, CEO Walt Wojciechowski told this new service.

# **Brief Summary:**

the Princeton, New Jersey-based consumer credit reporting agency serving underbanked lenders website

### **Interesting Fact:**

There has been a lot of M&A activity in the space in which MicroBilt operates, and eventually the company could become a target, he said. That said, MicroBilt is expanding, happy with its current model, and any liquidity event is probably at least 3 years away, he explained.



♦ Loci Inc, a Reston, Virginia-based software company that utilizes blockchain technology to aid inventors, is considering raising an equity round in Q4, a source familiar with the company told Fintech Horizon.

# **Brief Summary:**

Utilizing blockchain technology, the company's system serves inventors by offering immutable proof of intellectual property rights, according to the company. Its technology can also potentially link inventions in new ways or identify unforeseen opportunities to invent new products.







**FS** Card, a Washington, DC-based credit card company focused on offering affordable products to underserved customers, is interested in creating distribution partnerships as it considers expanding its credit card offerings, said Marla Blow, CEO and founder of the company.

# **Brief Summary:**

a Washington, DC-based credit card company focused on offering affordable products to underserved customers website