Aire Labs, a London, UK-based credit assessment provider, will likely raise its Series C in early 2021, said Aneesh Varma, founder and CEO.

### **Brief Summary:**

Aire's technology platform uses data to provide a fuller picture of a consumer's financial background and potential risks. Its credit insights system makes credit checking fairer for consumers who have little or no credit history by providing first-party data to allow lenders a better understanding of a borrower's financial situation.



#### **Investors:**

Crane Venture Partners, Experian Ventures, Orange Digital Ventures, White Star Capital and Sunstone Capital

#### **CEO** and Founder:

Aneesh Varma





# Interesting Fact:

Aire has not worked with investment bankers to date, but is willing to engage in conversations, the CEO said.



\*Kontist, a Berlin-based neobank for freelancers, is in the midst of its Series B raise, said Christopher Plantener, founder and CEO.

# **Brief Summary:**

Kontist is a digital banking app for freelancers that offers accounting and tax advisory backend support, the CEO said. Its mission is to make finances easier and simpler for freelancers by offering accounting, sales tax calculations, real-time tax /advisory as well as complete banking services all part of one platform. Accounts are held by solarisBank, a fully licensed German bank.



**Advisors:** Strata Partners

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

Christopher Plantener





# **Interesting Fact:**

Plantener, a serial entrepreneur who has founded eight companies, decided to start Kontist after building his previous company, which provided accounting software for freelancers. Plantener saw the market need for a new bank tailored to freelancers that included banking and accounting functionality rolled into one solution.



Activ Surgical, a Boston, Massachusetts-based surgical software startup, will raise its Series B in early 2021, said Todd Usen, CEO.

# **Brief Summary:**

Activ Surgical's ctivEdge platform uses sensors to collect realtime data during surgeries. Its first product, ActivSight, a small connected imaging coddle that attaches to laparoscopic surgical instruments, is focused on real-time blood flow. It will submit for FDA approval this fall and expects FDA clearance by Q1 2021.



Advisors: Wilson Sonsini

#### Investors:

ARTIS Ventures, LRVHealth, DNS Capital, GreatPoint Ventures, Tao Capital Partners and Rising Tide VC

#### CEO:

Todd Ulsen





## **Interesting Fact:**

Usen, a thirty year medtech veteran, joined Activ Surgical in January 2019 to scale and grow the company. He previously served as the President of the Medical Systems Group at Olympus Corporation of the Americas. He was also the President of Orthopedics, at Smith and Nephew, overseeing the Total Joint, Sports Medicine and Trauma divisions. He received his B.S. in Marketing from the University of Massachusetts Isenberg School of Business and did his M.B.A. work at Pepperdine University.



\*Dreams, a Stockholm, Sweden-based neobank, is in the midst of raising its Series B round, said Henrik Rosvall, founder and CEO.

## **Brief Summary:**

Dreams offers savings and investment services to retail clients through its mobile and web platform. The company, which is live in Sweden and Norway, is mainly targeting millennials as customers. (Founded 2014)



#### Investors:

AXA Investment Managers, Storebrand, Ålandsbanken

### CEO:

Henrik Rosvall





# **Interesting Fact:**

Dreams' investors include AXA Investment Managers (AXA IM), Storebrand, Alandsbanken and a group of private investors.



Cutover, a London-based SaaS information technology management platform for fintechs, is likely to raise its Series B towards the end of 2021, said Ky Nichol, founder and CEO.

## **Brief Summary:**

Cutover's solution helps enterprises more effectively plan, orchestrate and audit the human and automated activities that drive critical events, such as technology releases, resilience testing, operational readiness, and major incident recovery, according to the company.



#### **Investors:**

Index Ventures, Sussex Place Ventures, Contour Ventures, Partnership Fund for New York and Outrun Ventures

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

Ky Nichol







Veem, a San Francisco, California-based global payments platform, is in the midst of its Series C raise, said Marwan Forzley, CEO and co-founder.

### **Brief Summary:**

Veem is a global payments company that is capable of routing transactions via card, treasury accounts, blockchain, and the SWIFT network, according to the company. (Founded 2014)



#### **Investors:**

In September, Veem announced it had closed a \$31m strategic funding round led by Truist Ventures. New investors MUFG Innovation Partners, AB Ventures, Paper Excellence, Myer Family Investments, joined existing investors GV (formerly Google Ventures), Goldman Sachs, Kleiner Perkins, Silicon Valley Bank, National Australia Bank Ventures and Trend Forward Capital, to complete the round. Veem had previously raised \$70m prior to the \$31m round, according to FHM's prior report.

#### CEO:

Marwan Forzley





# **Interesting Fact:**

Veem helps 100,000 businesses in over 100+ countries send and receive wire transfers, according to the company.



Botkeeper, a Boston, Massachusetts-based Al-powered accounting platform, will begin its Series B raise in a few weeks, said Enrico Palmerino, CEO and founder.

## **Brief Summary:**

BotKeeper is an artificial intelligence accounting platform designed to automate the manual processes for bookkeeping.



**Advisors:** Fox Rothschild

#### Investors:

Ignition Partners, Greycroft and Gradient Ventures, Halfcourt Ventures, Sorenson Capital, Julian Brodsky, CPA Founder and CFO of Comcast and later Comcast Ventures, Stephen Messer, Al founder of Linkshare and Collective[i], Mike Volpe, former CMO of Hubspot and current CEO at Lola, Boston VC Jeff Fagnan, partner at Accomplice, and professional basketball player Matthew Dellavedova

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

Enrico Palmerino





# **Interesting Fact:**

Botkeeper anticipates continued growth even amid the COVID-19 crisis, CEO Enric Palmerino noted. Botkeeper's automation platform offers companies options for saving money on and streamlining accounting services during times of economic downturn. Historically, accounting services continue to grow during recessions as accounting is a government-mandated need for tax purposes, the CEO said.



Albo, a Mexico-based challenger bank, will likely begin its Series B raise in 9 to 12 months, said Ángel Sahagún, CEO and founder.

# **Brief Summary:**

Albo allows Mexican consumers to open a digital bank account with a prepaid card to receive, transfer, and spend their money.



#### Investors:

Valar Ventures, Mountain Nazca, Greyhound Capital, Omidyar Network and Flourish Ventures

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

Ángel Sahagún





# Interesting Fact:

Albo's mobile application also allows users to pay their gas, electricity, and internet bills as well as make cell phone recharges, at no cost, according to the company.



Coya, a Berlin, Germany-based full-stack insurtech startup, will seek its Series B round later this year, said Andrew Shaw, CEO and co-founder.

### **Brief Summary:**

Coya is targeting the home and family insurance market with insurance products across property, pet, travel, accident, personal liability and personal finance. It is designed to make shopping for insurance similar to an "Amazon shopping experience," where a customer can get coverage in one or two clicks.



#### Investors:

Valar Ventures, eVentures, La Famiglia and angels

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

Andrew Shaw





# **Interesting Fact:**

Shaw had the idea for Coya after he had an illness while traveling abroad in Indonesia. He needed his insurance information, which he could not locate and the experience was "awful," he said. He decided to take on the challenge of modernizing the insurance industry and starting a technology-enabled insurance business, Coya.



Mylo, a Montreal, Canada-based goal-based savings and investing app, plans to raise its Series B round this year, said Philip Barrar, CEO and founder.

### **Brief Summary:**

Mylo is a savings and investing app that allows Canadians to easily invest their loose change and grow their wealth, according to the company.



#### Investors:

NAventures, Desjardins Capital, Ferst Capital Partners and Tactico

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

Philip Barrar





# **Interesting Fact:**

The B round will be a catalyst for international expansion, Barrar said. Mylo is seeing tremendous success in Canada, but the market is limited. It aims to be a global fintech player and plans to enter Europe in the next few months. France is first on the list with Germany, the Netherlands, and Spain also possibilities.



nanopay, a Toronto-based payments and liquidity management provider, will begin fundraising this quarter, said Laurence Cooke, founder and CEO.

# **Brief Summary:**

nanopay, founded in 2012, provides real-time payment transfers in any form of digital asset between users, according to the company. Financial institutions, banks, and payment service providers use the nanopay platform for real-time payment applications.



#### Investors:

Merchant Banking Division of Goldman Sachs, APAGM Services LLC (Andrew Prozes), Jarnac Capital Management Inc. and Rohatton Inc.

# Interesting Fact:

Consolidation within the global payments market is likely within a few years, but nanopay prefers to be the consolidator, said Cooke. It would consider acquiring adjacent technologies. If nanopay identifies an acquisition target, it would then seek additional capital to finance that specific deal. It does not plan to raise a "general warchest and go around spending money [on deals]," he added.



•d1g1t, a Toronto, Canada-based wealth management platform, is focused on its operations for the next six months, but come summer, it will begin investment discussions, said Dan Rosen, CEO.

# **Brief Summary:**

d1g1t is wealth management platform powered by institutional- grade analytics & risk management, according to the company. (Founded 2017)



#### **Advisors:** Caravel Law

#### **Investors:**

Purpose Financial, Ontario Municipal Pension Retirement System (OMERS), Extreme Venture Partners, Portag3, Cl Financial, Illuminate Financial Management

#### CEO:

Dan Rosen





# Interesting Fact:

On October 1, CI Financial Corp. (TSX: CIX), a global asset and wealth management firm, announced the significant expansion of the strategic alliance with d1g1t.

# △ SalaryFits

## **Most Recent Coverage:**

\*SalaryFits, a platform which connects employees and FIs through employer payroll systems, is planning to start targeting the US market in 2020, CEO Délber Lage told this news service.

## **Brief Summary:**

SalaryFits is a platform that plugs into employer payroll systems, and provides financial institutions real-time data about employees, so that FIs can then provide employees more targeted products and services including loans, investments, and insurance, the CEO said.





\*Identiq, the Tel Aviv-based creator of a distributed peer-topeer identity validation network based on cryptographic protocols, will probably raise its Series A in Q3 2020, CEO Itay Levy told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company has created its network based on F.A.I.R (Fully Anonymous Identity Resolution) technology - which uses proprietary cryptographic protocols invented by Identiq, Levy said. The network does not use blockchain, but it is somewhat of a similar concept, he said.



#### Investors:

Entrée Capital, Slow Ventures, Vertex Ventures Israel, Oryzn Capital

# Interesting Fact:

Levy sold his previous startup Appoxee to Teradata in 2015, and was also a part of the founding team of Buzzmetrics which was acquired by Nielsen, according to company information. Arad was the Head of Analytics and Research at PayPal's risk department before co-founding Identiq. Shilon (R&D) previously led the Israeli R&D center for the Nielsen company.



\*RiskGenius, an Overland Park, Kansas-based insurtech using AI to help carriers and brokers analyze and review policies, is interested in investor approaches for its next raise, which is likely in Q3 2020, said Chris Cheatham, CEO.

### **Brief Summary:**

an Overland Park, Kansas-based insurtech using AI to help carriers and brokers analyze and review policies website

#### **Investors:**

Hudson Structured Capital Management, Hearst Ventures, FM Global and QBE Ventures



Divido, a UK-based startup which offers retailers and FIs a point of purchase financing platform, plans to raise its B round in 12 months, Christer Holloman, co-founder and CEO, said.

# **Brief Summary:**

a UK-based startup which offers retailers and FIs a point of purchase financing platform website

#### **Investors:**

Dawn Capital, DN Capital, Mastercard, American Express Ventures



Zeguro , a San Francisco-based MGA offering Cyber insurance and an accompanying risk management platform, is planning to seek more capital next year, Dan Smith, President, COO, and Co-founder, said.

# **Brief Summary:**

a San Francisco-based MGA offering Cyber insurance and an accompanying risk management platform website

#### **Investors:**

Mosaik Partners, Healthy Ventures, Munich Re/HSB Ventures, QBE Ventures, Social Capital, Plug and Play, and Sparkland Capital

#### CEO:

Sidd Gavirneni







ShapeShift, a Denver-based company behind a non-custodial platform to buy, sell, send, receive, trade, track, and hodl most major cryptocurrencies, is now getting ready for its Series B raise, a source told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

company has launched multiple products including CoinCap, which offers pricing data, and KeepKey, a hardware wallet. Last month, ShapeShift launched a new platform, which marries all of the company's products into an integrated platform.





Amenity Analytics, a NYC-based company offering a cloud-based text analytics platform and natural language processing tools to insurance, financial, and other enterprise customers, will probably start discussions about a Series C raise within a year, CEO Nathan Storch told this news service.

## **Brief Summary:**

a NYC-based company offering a cloud-based text analytics platform and natural language processing tools to insurance, financial, and other enterprise customers website



◆Sperse, a Tempe, Arizona-based startup developing a business-management platform, is raising a seed round and is planning to raise a large Series A financing in about a year, founder and "Chief Sperser" Omar Sayed told this news service.

# **Brief Summary:**

The company has developed a business-management platform. Out of this platform, the company designed its Cash Flow Outlook (CFO) product, which has been in beta for the past 9 months, and a CRM product, which has already been launched with unlimited functionality.



# Interesting Fact:

Sayed has more than 20 years' experience developing software. Prior to starting Sperse, he founded Succeed.com, an eCommerce company, which twice made the Inc. 500 list of fastest-growing private companies. The serial entrepreneur started his first company in 1993.